

Mary Belle Guthrie

Interview Transcript

From the Wyoming State Archives – Wyoming's Department of State Parks & Cultural Resources

Transcribed by Bess Arnold, May 25, 2010, Cheyenne, Wyoming

- Subject: Mary Belle Guthrie
- Attorney, Attorney General's Office; City of Cheyenne Attorney
- Born: January 13, 1941
- Interviewer: Mark Junge
- Interview date: May 5, 7, 2010
- Place of Interview: 2814 Capitol Ave., Cheyenne, Wyoming
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JUNGE: Today is Thursday, May 5, 2010. My name is Mark Junge and I'm
In the home of Mary Guthrie, Mary Belle Guthrie and Marshall Smith
here at 2814 Capitol Avenue, correct, Mary?

GUTHRIE: That's is true.

JUNGE: We're going to do an interview today about Mary's life, hit some high points. I'm going to ask her some questions and, as you may or may not know, this tape will eventually go into the archives, is that okay with you?

GUTHRIE: Sure.

JUNGE: With any restrictions that you want. If you don't want anybody to hear it or twenty years, that's fine.

Guthrie: I guess we'll decide after you interview me whether or not I want it restricted.

JUNGE: Smart lady. Okay, let's start with the vital statistics and what I'd like to start out is when and where were you born?

GUTHRIE: I was born in Newcastle, Wyoming, a small town in northeastern Wyoming on January 13, 1941. I was born on my grandmother's birthday. She always made me feel very special because she always called me her "birthday present." There was a twin. I had a twin that was born dead, so I guess it's a good thing there weren't two of us at the same time.

JUNGE: I didn't know that.

GUTHRIE: I didn't know it 'til I was twelve.

JUNGE: Did they name the twin? Was it a boy or a girl?

GUTHRIE: I think it was a little girl, but it was...

JUNGE: Stillborn.

GUTHRIE: Stillborn—and another thing, interesting thing—I reflect—my parents and I had a very wonderful relationship and we talked about a lot of things

but I'm sorry that I didn't visit with them enough about some of the historical things that happened to them. And so, I was born just after World War—well, eleven months before the bombing of Pearl Harbor. But I really have often thought what it must have been like to have had a small child during World War II. It might have been very difficult, but it never was discussed. The only memory I have of World War II was my father had a victory garden outside of town. We'd go out to the garden every once in a while and that was it. Oh, I have another memory. I would have been about two, three. Father came home and said "We're going to go see some ducks." Well, I was excited. We hopped in the car and we drove to a little place near Upton to see ducks. Well, I thought we were going to see birds and instead we were seeing the amphibious machines that were being transported on a train.

JUNGE: Ducks! (Laughs). That's good. You went, "Where are the ducks?"

GUTHRIE: Where are the ducks?....yeah.

JUNGE: Now, tell me the story about the poker game.

GUTHRIE: This is a fun sort of story. Life in a small town in Wyoming sixty, seventy years ago was very different than it is nowadays. There was a lot of camaraderie. People did a lot of fun things. They made their own fun to a great extent. My father had a big group of some poker playing buddies that played rather often, and I'm sure they probably drank a lot of beer in addition to playing poker. Well, there was one rule that you would never be able to give a marker to the group. They didn't want anyone to lose money and then go into debt to someone because it would probably cause some ill feelings. So one night the family doctor, who was a dear friend of my father's, fell behind. He kept losing and losing and he lost all his money and he said to my father, he said, "Rod, here you're winning all this money tonight," he said, "we have this rule about no markers and I know this next hand I'm going to be lucky enough to win." —My father said, "Og, I know that's against the rules, but what will you give me?" And the doctor said, "Well, if I win, I take the pot,"-- which made sense,--and he said, "If I lose, I deliver the baby." My mother was probably eight months pregnant with me, so the next hand was played, my father won, so we always said that I was won in a poker game.

JUNGE: (Laughs). That's great. Og, was his name?

GUTHRIE: His name was Ogden Horton. He was a man whose father had been a physician in Newcastle—old time physician--I think he probably came to Newcastle before the turn of the century. Ogden Horton was his name. He went to Stanford Medical School and then came back and practiced with his father. Now there's a funny story about that –now you don't mind if I just...

JUNGE: No. Ramble. This is what I love.

GUTHRIE: Anyway, after Og came back and was going into practice with his father, his father was going through some files and on a few of the files there was a little code 'PB' there. Well, Dr. Horton thought there was some medical explanation for this 'PB' and he couldn't figure it out, so he said to his father, he said, "Dad, I'm looking at Mrs. Jones file and it says 'PB' on it," He said, "What does that stand for?" And his father said "Poorly born." He said, "There's just some people who started out with health problems and they never get over them."

JUNGE: (Laughs) Poorly born, oh gee. Uh, can you go back—I know that I didn't ask your dad enough of these questions and, by the way, did I tell you—I think I mentioned over the internet in that e-mail I sent you—that I enjoyed listening to it, even more because when you interview you have to concentrate and you can't just enjoy, but you know what I'm saying.

GUTHRIE: And my father was the most marvelous raconteur.

JUNGE: Oh, he was great.

GUTHRIE: And he loved people. In fact, he and Joe Watt, a prominent rancher in northern Wyoming, who didn't die too many years ago, used to call themselves "The bridge generation." They had been born at a time when Wyoming hadn't been a state for very long even and they figured that they knew a lot of old timers and then knowing their contemporaries that they had actually bridged a couple of generations in Wyoming, so they knew more about Wyoming than they ever should have known for when they were born.. My father was born in 1908.

JUNGE: What about your mother?

GUTHRIE: My mother was born in 1911.

JUNGE: Okay. Well, that's not much of an age difference, is it?

GUTHRIE: Uh-uhh.

JUNGE: Did your dad tell you much about your grandparents and great-grandparents, because you mention a little bit of that in here.

GUTHRIE: Yeah, quite a bit. My grandfather, Silas Guthrie, was born in 1846 in Marion, Ohio. He could have been a very young man in the Civil War. He wasn't, but both he and his brother, his name was William Guthrie, were well educated. Grandfather Guthrie had gone to Ohio Westland. He then lived in Marion and knew Warren G. Harding—one of the family stories, and who knows if it's apocrypha, my father used that word sometime, was that he and Warren Harding actually got into a fight one time about something, But he and his brother then decided that they should go West, so they came to Wyoming, I think before 1880. I think they moved to Wyoming in 1880, were members of the Cheyenne Social Club, ranched originally with each other on a place near Douglas near LaForelle--LaForelle Creek, in fact the ranch is still in existence up there. I don't know the name.

JUNGE: Who owns it?

GUTHRIE: The Texton's(?) did own it, I don't know if a man by the name of Nicholas owns it now or not, but anyway, so they came very early to Wyoming and were sheep ranchers and cattle ranchers and later on Grandfather Guthrie moved to – he and his brother split up their partnership—the family story is that they split up because Uncle Will, Great-Uncle William, was a member of the Invaders, he was one of the members of the Wyoming Stock Growers. You can see pictures in, like in the history in the archives, very prominently William Guthrie is over here on the right somewhere. But anyway, so then, he moved to Moorcroft and ranched there. At the time of his death he was really planning to maybe move to Mexico and ranch there. He just decided that Wyoming had gotten too crowded. He sounds like a fascinating man. He was in his forties when he married my grandmother, who was in her twenties, and yet that was not terribly uncommon for you to really be established before you got married. I have somewhere a marvelous letter that he wrote to--it would be my great-grandmother McLain--asking for my grandmother's hand in marriage, those kinds of things, so anyway, here we had the forty-year-old and the twenty-five-year-old, whatever, getting married. Grandmother Guthrie moved to the

ranch in Douglas. She definitely wanted to have children and sounds like a fascinating woman. As I said earlier, she died a week after I was born, so it couldn't have been a very happy time. Um, well-read, did crossword puzzles in ink, drove big cars, wore big hats, all sorts of things, but she desperately wanted to have children and she tried and tried. When she'd get pregnant and the family was so excited, she had roots in Nebraska, so they would put her on the train to go back to Lincoln or Omaha to get the finest medical care, and either the train or some of the probably byzantine medical practices caused her to have miscarriages. I think my father who was born when my grandmother was about thirty-seven and his father was sixty-two, um, was maybe the eighth child that she conceived. It was interesting though after that there were two other children that were born and lived, so I guess perseverance pays off. My grandfather, as I say, was sixty-two, when my father was born.

JUNGE: Well then, who were your father's siblings and who were they?

GUTHRIE: The one was named Isabel and another was named Betty and the third sister died at about age two. My father had a very close relationship with his sisters.

JUNGE: Did you know your aunt?

GUTHRIE: We knew Aunt Isabel very well. She had no children, so she really indulged us. She was the kind of person who couldn't take a trip anywhere without taking suitcase after suitcase, sort of fun sorts of things, but she also, like father went to the University of Wyoming, as well as my mother and when it was time to drive back one time as Aunt Isabel wasn't ready, I'm sure she was packing one of her suitcases, so my father just drove off and left her.

JUNGE (Laughs) Did she?

GUTHRIE: They had a close friendship, they had a marvelous friendship. But anyway, back to the family story, and, again, I think family stories get better as more time goes by, more people tell them. But there is a family story that Major Walcott and Billy Irvin, who were the two basic instigators in the Johnson County War, had stopped by the Guthrie Ranch on their way back from scouting what they could do up in Johnson County and they had mentioned to my grandfather that they thought that were going to do this, and the story goes that my grandfather said, "That's the dumbest thing I've ever heard." Again -- my family lore, whether or not it's true.

JUNGE: But I think your dad said that it was Will. Wasn't that his name?

GUTHRIE: Yes.

JUNGE: Your Great Uncle Will was getting out of the state and getting away from it, but then he met some invaders on the train or something like that and got off the train and came back and decided...

GUTHRIE: I don't know that part of it, but he was one of the persons that actually was arrested and bonded out at Frances E. Warren.

JUNGE: Yeah, and your dad explained a lot of that process where they couldn't get enough veniremen, venNIRmen, is that what they call it?

GUTHRIE: To be on a jury.

JUNGE: To be on a jury, yeah. Now I'm curious, going back in your family, was everybody always in agriculture, I mean, going way back?

GUTHRIE: Oh I'm sure. I can't think of any stories I've ever heard of anybody being a merchant or anything like that.

JUNGE: Okay, now where did your dad meet your mom? How did that occur?

GUTHRIE: This is a great story. They both were going to school at the University of Wyoming and my mother was dating...

JUNGE: What's her full name?

GUTHRIE: My mother's name was Mary Belle, with an 'e', Pemberton Guthrie and mother was dating a fraternity brother of my father's and my father didn't think my mother was treating this man very nicely. So, he called her up one time and took her for a coke or something and he said, "Mary Belle" and she told him in no uncertain terms that she didn't think it was any of his business, so

they didn't really have any kind of dealings in college. Then after college my mother was living in Spearfish and father was the county attorney in Sundance and that's where they finally met and decided to get together, but they knew each other in college.

JUNGE: And I think your mother, her first memory of Wyoming, was meeting Kendrick, did you know about that?

GUTHRIE: Well, I'm not sure that's my mother's memory, I mean.....

JUNGE: Well, maybe it was your grandmother.

GUTHRIE: This is it. John D. Kendrick came to Wyoming from Texas.

JUNGE: Yes.

GUTHRIE: And I think he might have worked for my grandfather. My Grandfather Pemberton and his father had come from Texas. My grandfather was born on a saddle blanket outside of Midland, Texas. They didn't get his mother to the doctor in time, so at one point my Grandfather Guthrie and my great-grandfather actually trailed cows, or they had people trail cows up to Broadus, Montana, and I think that John D. Kendrick actually worked for the Pemberton's and then he was lucky enough to marry—what was his wife's name?

JUNGE: Oh, Eula, or Eulalia, or something like that.

GUTHRIE: Very lucky to marry her, because she took this--probably very handsome--charming man who was completely uneducated and she basically taught him how to read.

JUNGE: And then the rest of the story is he became governor and senator.

GUTHRIE: Yes.

JUNGE: I was just curious, growing up with your mom and dad, what was their relationship like?

GUTHRIE: I think normal. My mother had taught school. In fact, the interesting thing about how sometimes we don't appreciate what our parents lives were like--my mother grew up the middle child. My Grandfather Pemberton, when the ranching business was good, was very comfortable financially and my mother grew up as a little princess. She had her own pony cart, she had the cutest clothes in town, and she had pretty, long blond hair and then when she went to school at the University of Wyoming, she was told that she was just going to get an education and that she would never have to work. Her college graduation present was going to be a trip to Europe. My mother would have graduated in 1933. Well 1933 comes along and awfully hard times for ranchers—the depression, certainly, plus the drought. It was a terrible time, so my mother graduated from college with no skills whatsoever, so she had to borrow money from her grandparents. They couldn't even give it to her. She borrowed money to go back to school. She went to Montana State University in Bozeman, got a teaching certificate and then moved to Broadus and worked in Broadus and lived on a ranch and basically for that year or two, kept the ranch going with her salary because things were so, so tight.

JUNGE: So, was she a hard worker?

GUTHRIE: She was a very hard worker and—a mother is a mother—she worked before we were born, but then never again, just outside the home. She worked at home, obviously. She was the kind of mother that would make costumes and cook and, you know, all sorts of motherly things.

JUNGE: Just curious, was she severe, or was she friendly with everybody she met?

GUTHRIE: Mother was lovely. In fact Mabel Brown, whom you know-- her husband--Wesley, used to call my mother the most beautiful woman in Weston County.

JUNGE: Really?

GUTHRIE: You know, Weston County is a small place, but my mother and father had a good time. They did a lot of things. In fact, when she was younger, mother skied. In college, she played field hockey and did a variety of things.

JUNGE: Well, you know, I know what attracted my dad to my mother and I think I know what my mother saw in my father. What do you think they saw in each other, did they ever tell you?

GUTHRIE: No, never told me. I know they were pretty fun-loving people. My mother was twenty-five and my father was twenty-seven when they married, so maybe they just decided it was time. I think awful young now by modern standards.

JUNGE: I know. Things have changed. Now, let's see, she was educated at the University of Wyoming and went to Montana State for her teaching certificate.

GUTHRIE: Yes.

JUNGE: And then, tell me about your dad's education.

GUTHRIE: Well, my father—this is a story I didn't know 'til I heard one of those interviews with either Eugene Todd or with you--that my father's mother really wanted him to go to West Point. There was some talk of it and then he also thought about going to the University of Nebraska, but he didn't get his application in in time, so he ended up at UW. I don't think he got a bachelor's degree. I think at those times, you could just go through in about five years and get a law degree as well.

JUNGE: Oh, really?

GUTHRIE: And father did very well in school. In fact, there were stories that I heard about his academic prowess. He did extremely well in law school. At the same time, though, my father at one point in his life liked to spend a lot of time doing some things, talking and drinking and that kind of thing. So a story that was told by Justice Mike Golden at an anniversary celebration at the University of Wyoming College of Law was this—now I might remind you my father would have been in law school during the depression, I mean during prohibition too-- and he said that he was convinced that the bars were more open in Laramie during prohibition than otherwise, but anyway... So my father went to class and it was evident that he probably had not been studying at the library. He fell asleep in this class and one of the professors decided to 'get Guthrie.' So, he formed this amazingly complex hypothetical question and went on and on and at the end, he said, "What do you think, Mr. Guthrie?" Well father woke up and answered the question beautifully.

JUNGE: (Laugh) He wasn't quite asleep, was he?

GUTHRIE: No, I don't think so, but anyway...

JUNGE: Or he was pretty lucky.

GUTHRIE: He was pretty lucky.

JUNGE: Now, are you the oldest of the kids?

GUTHRIE: That's true.

JUNGE: So there were three kids, you want to give me their...

GUTHRIE: I have a younger sister, Nancy, who was born in 1943—ha, ha, Nancy, this is going to be in the Archives.

JUNGE: (Laughs).

GUTHRIE: And then we have a much younger brother who was born in 1954.

JUNGE: Okay. So you were the oldest?

GUTHRIE: Yes.

JUNGE: Why was it that Nancy graduated before you did?

GUTHRIE: Well, I got married, you know, when it was—for one thing my former husband and I used to joke I was his blonde scholarship, you know. That sounds so long ago and it really wasn't. Two people in a marriage—two college students couldn't afford to go to school. I worked a variety of rather dull jobs to get him through college.

JUNGE: Plus at the time, wasn't that the thing to do was to get married?

GUTHRIE: Well, sure. You tell me (laughs).

JUNGE: Absolutely, it was for...

GUTHRIE: (Laughs).

JUNGE: Well, I think there was a time in my life when I wanted to go on for other degrees, but there were some other prevailing thoughts too, you know. So Will was born in '54? '54. You just wrote in this-- I didn't know he passed away.

GUTHRIE: It was really sad. He was in Denver and wrote me one week that he had pneumonia and was in the hospital and then I got another e-mail from him saying that he had been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. It turns out pancreatic cancer is sometimes very hard to diagnose. The pancreas is so heavily imbedded in the body that sometimes until it becomes symptomatic. I checked him out of the hospital in Denver on the 12th of February and I took him to a hospice and he died on the 21st. So if you're going to have to have pancreatic cancer, that's the way to go really quickly.

JUNGE: Was he in law too?

GUTHRIE: He tried law school a couple of times, but he never finished.

JUNGE: Your father must have been a tremendous influence on you because all three...

GUTHRIE: Father didn't especially think it was very wise for women to go to law school.

JUNGE: Really?

GUTHRIE: Yes.

JUNGE: Well, then, why did you go?

GUTHRIE: I don't know. I always wanted to go, Nancy had always wanted to.

JUNGE: Because you saw what he was doing maybe?

GUTHRIE: That probably was true. I thought it was a nice challenge and it certainly is a nice profession.

JUNGE: It is?

GUTHRIE: Yes.

JUNGE: Tell me what it was like growing up with your brother and your sister out there in the country. Where was it you grew up?

GUTHRIE: Right in town--in Newcastle.

JUNGE: I thought it was on a ranch for some reason.

GUTHRIE: No, no. The cattle ranch in Broadus was sold. My father and mother never lived there-- but the sheep ranch was sold when I was four years old and father decided he couldn't be both a lawyer and a rancher. Newcastle is just a sweet little town. I had lots of nice friends; we'd be able to play. My mother would push us out of the door in the morning and say "Come home when I honk the car horn." It was nice. I had lots of smart friends who were sort of good friends. I never even saw anyone when I was in high school even drinking.

JUNGE: Really?

GUTHRIE: People did it.

JUNGE: Who were your friends?

GUTHRIE: My dearest friend was a woman whose name is Susan Kirkpatrick who is just a year and three days younger than I. January is a time when you're really pretty old. I was always one of the oldest kids in class and but her mother had her skip a grade. I mentioned in those notes that sometimes Susan and I would just get together and just sit in a room and read.

JUNGE: Yeah, I thought that was kind of interesting. I think you really have to be compatible to read together.

GUTHRIE: Yes. We also had a contest to see who could read the hardest books. So there was a little Scottish librarian in the Newcastle library who was not trained at all, except to check out books, who, Susan and I one time wanted to read “Madam Bovary” and she wouldn’t permit us to do it because she said that wasn’t a proper book for young women. But Susan was always the person that none of us could ever do as well as Susan scholastically. She’s absolutely, absolutely brilliant. She went to U.W. then went to Spain a year, then went to Cambridge on a Fulbright scholarship, got a Ph.D. in comparative literature from Harvard.

JUNGE: Is she still alive?

GUTHRIE: Yes.

JUNGE: Where at?

GUTHRIE: You can look her up, just Google Susan Kirkbride or YouTube, but she’s just recently retired now from the University of California at San Diego, but she taught for a long time.

JUNGE: What did she teach?

GUTHRIE: Spanish and comparative literature.

JUNGE: Susan KIRKpatrick?

GUTHRIE: She’s another nice friend. In fact, it was fun at my 50th High School Reunion this last fall, I went up---if you start first grade, we didn’t have kindergarten in Newcastle, then go all the way through twelve years of schooling, you develop some really nice friends.

JUNGE: Where did you go to school?

GUTHRIE: Newcastle.

JUNGE: No, but I mean, was it Newcastle Grade School, Newcastle Junior High, Newcastle High School?

GUTHRIE: There was one school.

JUNGE: Oh, there was just one school—one through twelve.

GUTHRIE: No, no, there were three schools, three different buildings, but at that time when I started there was only one grade school.

JUNGE: Do you have any really good memories of school?

GUTHRIE: They were really old, old buildings. We lived a block and a half away from the grade school so I could never go home for lunch, I mean I had to go home for lunch. I could never eat school lunch. I envied some of the people that could stay and have school lunch.

JUNGE: Your mother packed your lunch?

GUTHRIE: No, we walked. We walked a block and a half home to lunch everyday.

JUNGE: Oh, okay. Did you ever get in trouble? You're a person that I can't imagine ever getting in trouble.

GUTHRIE: Yes, whenever I got in trouble somebody found out about it. My father and mother had a couple of rules about dealing with cars and one of them was that you could never drive outside of town unless you told your parents that you were going. This was obviously after we had access to cars because my mother just had this great fear of someone getting in an accident. We were not very far from Custer, South Dakota, lots of curvy roads and there were accidents and my mother had visions of someone getting in a car wreck and lying for hours by the side of the road. But, anyway obviously I broke those rules. One time Nancy and I were at a place called the "Roost." It was about five or six miles out of town, just a greasy spoon, and we looked around and there was our mother who figured out where we were. Another time—I have a couple of other car stories. When I was about sixteen, my father got a car as a legal fee. It was a cute little pink and black Plymouth Belvedere hardtop.

JUNGE: What year was it? I'm trying to picture it in my head.

GUTHRIE: It was probably about 1950.

JUNGE: Pink and black, yeah.

GUTHRIE: '50ish, it was a cute car, and father brought it home and said, "Well, Mary, here's a car that you can drive. It isn't yours, but you can drive it." Well, I went out and it was a stick shift, manual transmission. Well, I had been trained how to drive a car with an automatic transmission because as soon as people could get away from clutches, they really did, and, of course, people now have gone back. And so I said to father, I said, "Rodney! I can't drive that car, it has a clutch." And he said, "Oh, Mary, it's really easy to drive a clutch, just go out and do it." So for the longest time—Newcastle has all these hills—and for quite some time I would have to take these circuitous routes so I wouldn't have to stop on the hill, or sometimes I just went around in second. Anyway, so after I was able to master this car—well, I must have been fifteen, 'cause I'll tell this story. I went off to a friend's house to show her this new car and we had her younger brother with us. So, I said, "Carla, let's go for a little ride," and she said, "Fine." So we were riding and she said, "Mary, I would like to drive this car," and I said, "Well, Carla, I can't let you drive the car because there's a rule that you can't let people drive the Guthrie's cars." And she said, "Oh, come on." So we go off to this country road. I let her drive the car. She hits a bump. Her brother's head goes through the windshield; doesn't hurt the brother. So I have to go home and explain to my parents that I violated this rule about not driving our cars unless there was some permission, so that's one. Then another incident was the neighborhood boy that I had this terrible crush on. He was one of those naughty boys; by today's standards he wouldn't be naughty at all, but he probably wore a ducktail and that kind of thing and he called up one night to see if I'd like to go out and have a coke. He said, "I don't have a car." I told my parents—I always remember, were playing bridge and I said "I'm going to take David and we're going to get a coke. So, we then decided it would be really fun if I let him drive, which was violating the rules and he said, "Well, let's just take a drive out in the country." So, we ended up driving into the country, getting terribly stuck, having to walk back to town about eight or nine miles. By then my parents were just frantic. They had called the sheriff and on and on, so the next day my father and mother and much younger brother and I drive out so my father could try to unstick this car. He was jacking it up. Well, suddenly we turned around and hear this 'putt, putt, putt.' This

young man's father owned a tractor company, so this kid had driven the tractor all the way out of town to pull me out.

JUNGE: So did that endear your father towards him at all?

GUTHRIE: No, no, no. And, of course, it meant that I didn't drive a car for months and months. So whenever I did break one of the family rules, I always got in trouble.

JUNGE: What about drinking and smoking?

GUTHRIE: Not until college.

JUNGE: Okay, so you were really a pretty good girl.

GUTHRIE: Right. In fact this little group I told you earlier about, this little group of kids, there were boys in this group and we'd get together and just have fun. It was very good.

JUNGE: Were you pretty steady churchgoers? What church did you guys belong to?

GUTHRIE: Christ Church Newcastle. It was a very small Episcopal church; it was about four blocks away. And, yes, we were. And, in fact, if you went to the eight o'clock church, it was only about half an hour long and so many times my father would...

JUNGE: No sermon?

GUTHRIE: No sermon. That was the old days in the Episcopal Church. My father would then fix up the most marvelous sourdough pancakes for people. So many times I think people would go to church just so they would get invited to go have breakfast.

JUNGE: (Laughs). Were you pretty religious as a kid?

GUTHRIE: I don't think so.

JUNGE: How are you now?

GUTHRIE: Religion is an important part of my life. I'm a really active member of St. Mark's church.

JUNGE: And you stuck with it?

GUTHRIE: Mm-hmm.

JUNGE: You stuck with your membership and isn't Marshall also a member?

GUTHRIE: Mm-hmm.

JUNGE: What do you guys do? Do you read prayers or do you stand at the lectern, or what do you do?

GUTHRIE: I am what you call a Eucharistic minister and a Eucharistic visitor, so I participate, I can give communion and go out to one of the nursing homes and have a little service every once in a while.

JUNGE: They're pretty liberal toward women, then, doing those things. Lutherans would never allow this.

GUTHRIE: Oh, it just depends on what Lutheran church you're dealing with.

JUNGE: The Missouri Synod would not.

GUTHRIE: Some churches, though, like the Methodist Church has had women...the Episcopal Church has only had women as priests since 1976 and certainly some of the other protestant churches have had it a lot longer than that.

JUNGE: Were your parents really deeply religious or were they just...was it a formalistic sort of relationship or what?

GUTHRIE: I don't know what. I can't speak for my parents.

JUNGE: I can speak for mine. I know exactly how my dad and my mother felt about this.

GUTHRIE: Well, they thought it was important to go to church.

JUNGE: Yeah. So what civic organizations did your dad and mom belong to?

GUTHRIE: My father belonged to the Shriners. I don't think he ever went. It was in Sheridan. I think he'd been a Mason, he was a Lion. My mother belonged to a PEO chapter, something called the Twentieth Century Club. They would get together and give papers.

JUNGE: Mabel Brown was in that wasn't she?

GUTHRIE: It goes way back. There's a picture in one of your books— it's a Stimson--the Owls. The Owls were a predecessor to the Twentieth Century Club.

JUNGE: What was her name? She was a member of the Owls. I interviewed her. She was almost one hundred years old, that they had me interview. I can't think of it.

GUTHRIE: Anyway, but my mother—the most fun thing that my mother belonged to was this—it was called the BF&FD, standing for Busy Fingers and Fancy Doers. Mother and some of her friends—a couple of the women's groups in town were really pretty silly, so they decided to make fun of these women's groups and they created this imaginary group they called the BF&FD. They would have press releases about the BF&FD had done this and that.

JUNGE: And a good time was had by all.

GUTHRIE: And they installed a chapter in Basin and they installed a chapter in Cheyenne. So some of these women from some other women's clubs would become really envious that they weren't members of the BF&FD—"Busy Fingers and Fancy Doers." But it was interesting when my mother died that I actually included that in her obituary.

JUNGE: What was their purpose--I mean, just to antagonize some of the other groups?

GUTHRIE: No. They didn't even meet.

JUNGE: (Laughs). They didn't do anything?

GUTHRIE: No, they were just an imaginary group. In fact, when my mother died, I mentioned that in the obituary. Then, I got the Newcastle Newsletter Journal until my mother's subscription ran out and the very last issue came with a story that the BF&FD had had a memorial service for Mary Belle Guthrie. It was just funny.

JUNGE: When did she pass away?

GUTHRIE: My mother and father both died in 1991.

JUNGE: I didn't realize that they both died in the same year.

GUTHRIE: They died within three months.

JUNGE: Your dad was first?

GUTHRIE: In June and mother in September.

JUNGE: Do you think that was genetically determined or do you think that was more of a close relationship that they had?

GUTHRIE: Well, I think they were both in ill health. My father had some heart problems that they couldn't really identify and my mother was in pretty ill health. I'm sure that mother was just frail.

JUNGE: What's your favorite story about your dad?

GUTHRIE: Oh, there's so many of them. This is one that is...in fact it was before he got really sick. He had had a hernia surgery, a hernia operation in August and he was supposed to get out of the hospital the same day. It was supposed to be a same-day surgery, but his temperature had fallen and I think his blood pressure fell too, so they decided to keep him overnight. So I went over there to pick him up, back at the old DePaul and was told to wait around for a while to see if the doctor was going to dismiss him. Well, during that time, this very officious woman comes in, the nurse, picks up his chart and says, "Oh, Judge Guthrie, it's nice to meet you. What shall we call you?"

Shall we call you judge? Shall we call you Rodney?” And my father always thought that sometimes we live in this instant intimacy society and that maybe it wasn’t a good thing to call people by their first name, unless you knew them or you were given permission to do it and so here’s father who was eighty-three, eighty-two, I guess, at the time who just had surgery and there was some little problem—looked and he said, “What’s your name, young lady?” And she said “Jane.” And he said, “Well, just call me Tarzan. Me Tarzan, you Jane.”

JUNGE: (Laughs). Your dad had a lot of fun, you know.

GUTHRIE: He did.

JUNGE: I remember him telling me a story about some guy he knew by the name of “Ran.” Did you know a “Ran?”

GUTHRIE: I’m sure there were all these...

JUNGE: And this guy was just a ranch hand or something like that, but Rodney, your dad—did you call him Rodney?

GUTHRIE: Sometimes, but usually father.

JUNGE: And then your mother, you just called mother?

GUTHRIE: Mm-hmm, or Mary Belle, it just depends. I mean, there was none of this “only call me by my first name.”

JUNGE: Or sir or madam. Well, your father admitted he was getting a little bit carried away with himself and his importance. I don’t know if he was running for county attorney or what he was doing, but this ranch hand named “Ran” was drunk one day. Your dad said “hi” to him and was crossing the street and Ran said, “Come here,” he motioned for him to come. “What is it, Ran?” And he says, “You know, Rodney, I don’t think you’ve ever learned that self-praise is the lowest form of flattery.” Do you remember that one?

GUTHRIE: Okay. Well, my sister and I were being naughty about somebody, saying something nasty and my father would say, “You know, I’ll bet she speaks well of you.”

JUNGE: (Laughs).

GUTHRIE: This reminds me of a funny Mary Belle story. My parents were married in 1935 and father had run for the county attorney’s job in Crook County—times were so tough, and so they...

JUNGE: He was in Sundance at the time, not Newcastle.

GUTHRIE: Yeah. Crook County, where Sundance and Moorcroft are, and the ranch was in Moorcroft. Well, anyway--before father—he had found a place for them to live, he thought, but that summer mother and father and Grandmother Guthrie got together and all lived on the ranch. And my mother really was a very pretty woman. One day she and Grandmother Guthrie went to Moorcroft to the store and mother said she turned around at one point and there was this funny little man who was following her. Well, she turned around again and he had pinched her and so they get home to the ranch and then it turns out this man who had pinched her was a ranch hand, his name was Fakey Dukas.

JUNGE: Fakey Dukas?

GUTHRIE: Father has told me about Fakey Dukas stories, the man who was a circus performer. But anyway, it was really funny. Mother said Fakey Dukas about died when he figured out that the woman he’d pinched was the boss’s daughter-in-law.

JUNGE: (Laughs).

GUTHRIE: Then another story, they were going to move to Sundance, so father had rented a little house and, well, it turned out the rental deal fell through and they couldn’t find anyplace else to live, so mother’s first year as a young bride was spent living in a boarding house. In those days, the terms were two years and he was the county attorney for four years—two terms.

JUNGE: And then after that he became like a district court judge.

GUTHRIE: No, then he moved to Newcastle and he practiced law for a long time.

JUNGE: Oh, okay, but eventually he became a district court judge.

GUTHRIE: In 1958, I think it was.

JUNGE: And then when did he become Supreme Court justice?

GUTHRIE: Nineteen—I think he was sworn in January, 1972. He was old by modern standards. He could only serve seven and a half years ‘cause he would have then turned seventy.

JUNGE: That’s when you have to retire, it’s mandatory retirement.

GUTHRIE: Mm-hmm.

JUNGE: What do you think prompted your dad to go into law and then go as far as he did?

GUTHRIE: I don’t know. He always thought that the most noble thing a lawyer could do was want to be a judge, but I can’t tell you what made him want to be a lawyer.

JUNGE: Do you feel that way too?

GUTHRIE: Mm-hmm.

JUNGE: Do you feel that way, too? The most noble thing you could do?

GUTHRIE: Well, you know that’s what he felt. I think that there are different pathways for people to take.

JUNGE: Well, what about yourself. I mean, your sister’s a judge.

GUTHRIE: Yes. I applied for positions on the Supreme Court and the district court and never got appointed, obviously.

JUNGE: Why not?

GUTHRIE: Who knows.

JUNGE: Who knows, is it politics?

GUTHRIE: No, I don't think it is, because I served one time on a judicial nominating commission—but I have a funny story, a funny Will Guthrie story about that. My brother was about six years old and went off to the first grade and the teacher went around twittering, asking everybody what their parents did and Will said his father was a judge and the teacher said, "Oh, what do you have to know to be a judge?" Now this child had never heard this at home, but at age six, he said, "Oh, you don't have to know anything, you just have to know the governor."

JUNGE: (Laughs). That's cute.

GUTHRIE: Isn't that funny?

JUNGE: Yeah. That's funny. Uh-- so you went—after high school, then, why did you decide to go to UW, I mean, did you go right to UW?

GUTHRIE: That was just where your parents could afford to send you. I do know that I got as good an education at the University of Wyoming as I could have gotten anywhere, because you know, it was cheap. I think my tuition was like \$90 a semester.

JUNGE: And room and board?

GUTHRIE: And room and board on top of that. It was accessible for middle class families and getting student loans was unheard of.

JUNGE: Who paid your way through school?

GUTHRIE: My parents did, and then I worked in the summertime.

JUNGE: Where did you stay in Laramie?

GUTHRIE: I lived the first year in Hoy Hall, and then I went to the Pi Phi House the next year.

JUNGE: So, you were a Pi Phi? Any other famous Pi Phi's?

GUTHRIE: Lots, I'm sure, including Grace Coolidge.

JUNGE: Grace Coolidge?

GUTHRIE: President Coolidge's wife.

JUNGE: Oh, really?

GUTHRIE: At the Smithsonian she actually was wearing her arrow pin.

JUNGE: Was Kathryn Halverson a Pi Phi?

GUTHRIE: Yes.

JUNGE: Did you know her?

GUTHRIE: Kathryn Halverson was wonderful. That's one of the nice things I think about an alumni group is that you get to know people of such different ages and interests. Kathryn was a character.

JUNGE: Tell me about your rush period, when they rushed you? Didn't they rush you?

GUTHRIE: Well, you go through rush—I don't know, I guess it's pretty traumatic for some people.

JUNGE: Yeah.

GUTHRIE: I can't think of anything.

JUNGE: I mean, was it considered like a natural thing for you to do, I mean, were you thinking about it?

GUTHRIE: When I went to school at the University of Wyoming, you almost had to be a Greek to survive. There were all these social events—the independents were sort of weak straggling-- I know a lot of friends of mine didn't go through rush week, but it's very different now than when I went to school. You know, if you wanted to be cool and probably do things that you couldn't otherwise, you probably pledged a sorority or a fraternity.

JUNGE: Was that a good time in your life?

GUTHRIE: It was a marvelous time. I think college is a great time. You have a group of friends that you can do a lot of things with and then there's, coincidentally, the intellectual activities too.

JUNGE: Do you have any stories about UW?

GUTHRIE: I'm sure I do, but I can't think of any right now.

JUNGE: Did you date?

GUTHRIE: Mm-hmm, and you just, you know there were things like you could go to fraternity dances and some of them were the costume parties and that kind of thing, you could go around to...

JUNGE: Like the Iron Skull Skid, or whatever they called it.

GUTHRIE: There was the Bowery Ball that the Sigma Chi's or the ATO's had and there was (unintelligible) the Sigma Nu's had and there was all sorts of different things, but it was a much easier time I think socially than kids are now exposed to and, of course, there were lots of beer busts and chances to go out and drink too much beer.

JUNGE: Did you do that?

GUTHRIE: Did I go to beer busts? Sure.

JUNGE: Who was your first date with?

GUTHRIE: Ever? Thyra Thomson's nephew. Thyra's in-laws lived in Newcastle and this was a kid who (unintelligible) would buy me boxes of chocolate covered cherries.

JUNGE: And won your heart.

GUTHRIE: And won my heart.

JUNGE: Oh, God. (Laughs). So what was he like?

GUTHRIE: He was just a nice seventh grade boy.

JUNGE: So you met your husband at UW?

GUTHRIE: Mm-hmm.

JUNGE: Okay. What is his name? I can't remember.

GUTHRIE: His name is Hugh McFadden.

JUNGE: Is he alive? Where does he live?

GUTHRIE: He lives in Bozeman, Montana.

JUNGE: Oh, okay.

GUTHRIE: We met in English class.

JUNGE: Oh, okay. I was going to ask you, how did that happen?

GUTHRIE: We met in English class and I worked for two years at the University of Wyoming Science Camp.

JUNGE: Oh, really? S.H. Knight Science Camp?

GUTHRIE: Got to know Doc Knight very, very well and he was at science camp and that's the way things started.

JUNGE: You got to know him pretty well?

GUTHRIE: Doc Knight?

JUNGE: Yeah. What kind of a guy was he?

GUTHRIE: In fact, downstairs I have a collection of his poetry that I keep meaning to send you.

JUNGE: Really?

GUTHRIE: You wrote something nice about Doc.

JUNGE: I might have, but I knew who he was. In fact, I think that S.H., Samuel Howell Knight...

GUTHRIE: Howell was his mother's name, I think.

JUNGE: Okay, he did some geologic maps for a publication that my boss, Ned Frost, and I submitted as a concept to the American Revolution Bi-Centennial and so he did the geological maps showing how Independence Rock, which was our purported meeting house in Wyoming where people met on the 4th of July. Everybody was supposed to have a meeting house and this was our concept and S.H. Knight did the maps.

GUTHRIE: He was a wonderful man. I took a geology class from him as well.

JUNGE: Tell me about those things he did--I mean--in front of the classroom. He was amazing.

GUTHRIE: Well, the first day—interesting thing—I had three professors at the University of Wyoming that my parents had had. That doesn't happen very often. Russell McCloud, Dr. Samuel Knight and then Dr. A.J. Dickman I think was the third, maybe just two.

JUNGE: Was that Francois Dickman's father?

GUTHRIE: Yes.

JUNGE: A.J. Okay.

GUTHRIE: Adolph J.

JUNGE: Adolph.

GUTHRIE: (unintelligible). But anyway, so the first day of class and Doc Knight had this great big mustache and great big eyebrows that just sort of twinkled. Absolutely delightful. Well, the first day, he'd go in and would just go to the board and be facing the classroom, pick up some chalk and just draw a perfect circle. When you think about how open his shoulders must have been and so that was a way to get people's attention, there was this giant circle.

JUNGE: And a perfect circle.

GUTHRIE: Actually, I can't even think of doing it.

JUNGE: No, you'd have to be double-jointed.

GUTHRIE: (Laughs).

JUNGE: How did he do it?

GUTHRIE: I don't know how he did do it, but he did it. Oh, here, you do it like this.

JUNGE: Okay, Okay. Yeah, you couldn't have arthritis.

GUTHRIE: And then he did an introductory class and I think by then maybe Doc was teaching only introductory classes, but then he would do all these marvelous chalk drawings. He was really and truly an artist. And then, instead of being (unintelligible) and he would do all this gorgeous different colored chalk. I think somebody has actually a videotape of his doing that.

JUNGE: Really?

GUTHRIE: But then, it was wonderful, as I say, I worked two summers for Doc.

JUNGE: What did you do?

GUTHRIE: Oh, we made beds and waited on tables.

JUNGE: In those little shacks? Those little...

GUTHRIE: Well, we only made them up—students then had to do their own cleaning the rest of the semester, and then washed dishes and just played in the mountains. It was wonderful.

JUNGE: What kind of guy was he?

GUTHRIE: Oh, I think every good thing that people say about him. He was just a wonderful, warm, brilliant man devoted to Wyoming, just an amazing sort of guy.

JUNGE: Did he ever talk about his dad, Wilbur?

GUTHRIE: Not that I recall. His mother, Edwina, wasn't that her name – well, that was his wife's name. They lived in a really cute house in Laramie over-- like on about Ninth--a little ginger bread house where Doc Knight had been born.

JUNGE: Did you know Ralph McWhinnie?

GUTHRIE: Mac grew up in Douglas and I imagine that's where my grandmother rode the train after she was first married to the ranch a-LaForelle Creek. I told you Grandmother Guthrie liked children and wanted to have them. She actually babysat sometimes Mac for his mother while she went to town or something. So he was a dear friend of the family, a dear friend of my father's. He helped father when he was a college student, so I knew Ralph.

JUNGE: He was legendary, absolutely legendary. Do you know Dave Foreman?

GUTHRIE: Mm-hmm.

JUNGE: Dave talks about him like and you get all these stories about Mac and his memory. He really did have an incredible memory.

GUTHRIE: He'd come up to me and say "Now, you know, I remember when your parents"—well, he might not say that to me because we knew him, but someone he'd never even met before, he'd say, "You know, I'll bet your parents matriculated at the University of Wyoming in 1942 and I'll bet your mother's middle name was Smith" or something. Well, he was brilliant.

JUNGE: Absolutely. So, what about Wilson Clough?

GUTHRIE: He was a scary teacher sometimes. I remember not being as well-prepared as I should be. He demanded such intellectual excellence that if you didn't know the right answer, you might have stayed away from class or sort of hunkered down in the back of the room.

JUNGE: Did you have a problem with that?

GUTHRIE: No, he was brilliant. And then one of the years, my former husband was in law school, I worked in the history department. Good old T.A. Larson. My husband and I were married and went off a year and spent that year in Seattle while he was in graduate work in English. Then we came back when he decided to go to law school and it was awfully hard for women to find jobs in Laramie. Dr. Larson found out that I was looking for a job and he called up and he said, "Mary, would you like a job in the history department?" And I said, "But, Dr. Larson, that's awful nice, but I can't type." And he said, "Nonsense. You can spell."

And (unintelligible) (Clough??) was there and Bill Stecco and Clinton Cook.

JUNGE: (Chuckles) What did you think of those guys?

GUTHRIE: They were pretty wild.

JUNGE: They were, weren't they?

GUTHRIE: They spent an awful lot of time at the (unintelligible) when they...

JUNGE: I know it. Or the Albany.

GUTHRIE: Or the Albany.

JUNGE: That was the railroader's bar, wasn't it?

GUTHRIE: Yes. They served free hot dogs some nights, so a lot of the people, graduate students, college students, went to the Albany.

JUNGE: Yeah, we did too. Mike Robinson and I used to go there. This was in the late '60s—67, 67-68, and you were—let's see now, you graduated when?

GUTHRIE: 1963 was the year I graduated. In '64 Hugh and I were married then, '65 we went off to Seattle, came back in '66, so, um...

JUNGE: What did you do in Seattle?

GUTHRIE: I worked in a library and he went to graduate school.

JUNGE: So, that's why he called you his blonde scholarship.

GUTHRIE: On a Woodrow Wilson.

JUNGE: He was a pretty bright guy.

GUTHRIE: I knew Mike Robinson.

JUNGE: Did you? Mike used to go out with those guys, Cook—he used to call him "Q"—went out with "Q" and, I don't know too much—Stecco, I don't know, he and Debbie Hardy had something going, didn't they?

GUTHRIE: (Unintelligible) I don't know.

JUNGE: Oh, well, I don't even know. Is Debbie Hardy still alive? Okay (unintelligible) Never mind, never mind. So, there's Tom Kennedy, whose softball team I played on. Bill Stecco and then John (unintelligible) and Larson and Debbie.

GUTHRIE: And "Q," as you mentioned.

JUNGE: Yeah, and Clinton Cook. He was sort of a strange guy.

GUTHRIE: And Herb Dietrich.

JUNGE: Herb Dietrich, right. "Q" used to get—I don't know, I'll say this, I'm not afraid to say it, he can sue me—but he used to get roaring drunk. I think he died. I think he died, actually.

GUTHRIE: (Unintelligible). A couple of years ago I nominated Bob Bonner to be an outstanding alumna of the Arts and Sciences College and Bob had been—did you know Bob Bonner?

JUNGE: Uh-uhh.

GUTHRIE: He ended up getting a Ph.D. He taught at Carlton forever. He wrote a book on Buffalo Bill recently.

JUNGE: Where's Carlton?

GUTHRIE: Carlton is that marvelous liberal arts school in Minnesota.

JUNGE: In Minnesota, yeah.

GUTHRIE: It's in Carlton, Minnesota, in fact.

JUNGE: So, you had good times working there?

GUTHRIE: Mm-hmm.

JUNGE: Who did you enjoy the most?

GUTHRIE: I think Dr. Larson.

JUNGE: Wasn't he a gem?

GUTHRIE: Mm-hmm.

JUNGE: He was absolutely great. Now, I'm going to get somebody—maybe it won't be you—but I'm going to get somebody to tell me the story of him and Coach Woody's wife. Did you know about that?

GUTHRIE: (Unintelligible).

JUNGE: Well, he stole Dutch Woody's wife, that's the story. Didn't you know about that?

GUTHRIE: I'm afraid you're going to have to get somebody...but he didn't marry her, did he?

JUNGE: Well, I wonder. I thought Mary—his wife's name was Mary.

GUTHRIE: I think Mary was maybe his second wife.

JUNGE: Oh, could be. Well then, when Mary passed away, he married Mary's sister, Dorothy.

GUTHRIE: Who had some connection with Julia Yelvington.

JUNGE: Really? I didn't know that.

GUTHRIE: What was Julia's...because I went to a wedding reception that she gave for (Lymond??) Somehow Julia's maiden name was Lymond, and...

JUNGE: She's gone now, too.

GUTHRIE: Yes, I think it might have been her aunt or something, I don't know, there was some connection. But the Al Larson story that I think was pretty funny, and having in-laws who lived in Laramie and my former father-in-law was involved with the University of Wyoming for a long, long time..

JUNGE: Now, who's this?

GUTHRIE: Hugh McFadden, Senior.

JUNGE: Senior.

GUTHRIE: He was even the president of the University for a short time
But, anyway, one of the stories was when Al Larson went fishing, he wanted to protect his lips, so he wore lipstick. We always chuckled about that, you know, to see Dr. Larson wearing lipstick, not just some kind of salve, but lipstick.

JUNGE: (Chuckles). He was a terrific person. He was my mentor. He brought me to Wyoming.

GUTHRIE: Wonderful man.

JUNGE: Absolutely wonderful man. We did some long interviews and I told him I thought maybe he should have done...if he hadn't been turned by one particular individual at CU, Boulder, he would have been a writer 'cause that's what he wanted to do. He wanted to be in journalism, but one professor got ahold of him and pretty much said, "Look, what do you expect to do in journalism, this is where it's at," so he turned Dr. Larson totally around. Well, you remember the old Coe Building and the Coe Library?

GUTHRIE: That's where the history department was. Some days it wasn't a very busy job, so I had a key and I would just go through the door between the history department and the library to check out a book.

JUNGE: You're an incredible reader.

GUTHRIE: I am.

JUNGE: How many books do you think you've read in your life?

GUTHRIE: I have no idea.

JUNGE: Well, can't you guess?

GUTHRIE: It just depends. Some weeks I'm sure probably through my life I've read one a week, two a week. It just depends. Right now I'm teaching a couple of classes at LCCC and that sort of gets in the way

JUNGE: Aren't you a little behind the times? Just kidding. Why did you get your undergraduate degree in English?

GUTHRIE: Because it was a wonderful thing to do. I went to college thinking I would be a math major.

JUNGE: Really?

GUTHRIE: I didn't do very well in that and then after about three semesters, I decided I didn't want to do that. English has been easy for me and so that's why I ended up in English.

JUNGE: 'Cause you'd always read.

GUTHRIE: Yes. And I like to read and write. Many lawyers I know majored in English.

JUNGE: Really? I thought typically lawyers couldn't write.

GUTHRIE: I don't know, but many of them majored in English that I know.

JUNGE: Did you write anything, Mary, I mean, did you write a book or poetry, did you ever do...

GUTHRIE: I've written lots of briefs in my life and when I was with the Wyoming State Bar I wrote a very nice little column. Writing is easy, but I've never written that...

JUNGE: Why not?

GUTHRIE: I don't know. I guess that burning desire isn't there. Maybe I'd just rather do something, read something.

JUNGE: Because you really express yourself well.

GUTHRIE: That's nice of you to say.

JUNGE: Well, I would think that you would be a writer, I mean, I think you just naturally lean that way, and you read so much. Anyway, I do admire that about you, by the way, that you're so well-read. I don't know anybody in this town that's as well-read as you are.

GUTHRIE: Oh, there are people.

JUNGE: Are you sure? You're not being modest?

GUTHRIE: No, no. My father, when somebody would say something nice about someone and someone would say "Oh, that's not true" father would say, "Now that's not nice. Just say 'thank you.'" When someone compliments you, so I just thanked you and we can go on to something else.

JUNGE: Well, who else do you know?

GUTHRIE: Oh, I know a lot of well-read people.

JUNGE: Really? Okay, yeah I do too at the YMCA. All right, so you graduated in '63, but you didn't go to law school until like 70..., what was it?

GUTHRIE: Well, I started in '69. From '63 to '64, I was doing graduate work in English, but I never wrote a thesis. But then we went to Seattle, lived in Seattle, then my former husband graduated from law school in '68 and then we lived in Cheyenne for two years and the first year I was going to write a book.

JUNGE: On what?

GUTHRIE: I don't know -- a novel. And then I decided to go to law school, so I started law school in the fall of 1969, went to law school, got pregnant, dropped out after I had a child and then we moved back to Laramie. So I didn't get back to law school and then went through a divorce.

JUNGE: Which was what year?

GUTHRIE: 1976. I went back to law school.

JUNGE: And then did you graduate the following year?

JUNGE: Yes.

JUNGE: When did you pass the bar?

GUTHRIE: '78.

JUNGE: The next year.

GUTHRIE: Mm-hmm.

JUNGE: Okay, so you went right through?

GUTHRIE: Yes.

JUNGE: How did you rank in the class?

GUTHRIE: Well, the first time around, I was first and then when I went back, didn't do as well and I think I was seventeenth or something like that, probably the top quarter.

JUNGE: Why didn't you do as well?

GUTHRIE: Well, dealing with a divorce and a small child.

JUNGE: Okay. Do you remember any of your colleagues? Have they gone on to do great things like... you've done some wonderful things.

GUTHRIE: I have lots of law school classmates, both those in the class I should have graduated, which was '72, and then in the class of '77 that have become judges.

JUNGE: Can you name any of them?

GUTHRIE: Judge O'Brien, Gary Hartman (?), I don't think (unintelligible). Mike Murphy, whose on the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals, as well as Terry O'Brien and John Brooks. There were some others and then there's one who's written a lot of novels -- her name was Cheryl something and there are other people like Leslie Larson, who was in the first class that I should have graduated with, ended up becoming a judge in Denver and didn't like it very well, so she did something else. She did some very high-powered things in Denver, so there have been all sorts of things that people have done...

JUNGE: Who do you particularly remember fondly in law school as instructors?

GUTHRIE: Well, Frank Trelease.

JUNGE: Water professional, right?

GUTHRIE: Yes. Peter Maxfield, who taught property, was just my age. Peter was a very good teacher; John (Rains?), the dear old man who taught criminal procedure.

JUNGE: Did you have any problems with any of those classes in law school? I've never been to law school, so I don't know how tough it is. Was it really tough?

GUTHRIE: It just takes a lot of work. Nancy used to describe law school as the factory. It takes an awful lot of work.

JUNGE: Did you ever work on the U.W. Law Journal?

GUTHRIE: I could have gotten on it and I wrote one case note and then decided I didn't want to do it.

JUNGE: Oh, it sounds like such a natural, I mean...

GUTHRIE But I was so busy with other things.

JUNGE: I see. Okay. Now, let's see, you only had one child, Bart? Barton?

GUTHRIE: Bartley.

JUNGE: Who did you name him for?

GUTHRIE: My former husband's middle name and then Winston after Winston Churchill.

JUNGE: Bartley Winston.

GUTHRIE: Mm-hmm.

JUNGE: After Winston Churchill. Was that your idea or Hugh's?

GUTHRIE: We both thought Winston Churchill was a brilliant man and a marvelous writer, an amazing sort of guy.

JUNGE: Yes, he was. Okay, talking about your career—after graduation you said you worked for James Barrett?

GUTHRIE: After law school graduation, yes. The first time I had had a variety of jobs. I worked in the library in Washington and then we came back, I worked for some people doing a variety of things. My first job after law school, Judge Barrett I clerked for him for a year, and then I was at the Attorney General's office for seventeen years.

JUNGE: How was Judge Barrett to work for?

GUTHRIE: He was a wonderful man--one of the nicest persons in the world. He was a very busy man. There was lots of work to be done. It was fun. I think sometimes a clerkship is like a year of graduate work. It's different.

JUNGE: Did you learn a lot?

GUTHRIE: I learned a lot.

JUNGE: Was he a good mentor or teacher?

GUTHRIE: Yes. He was wonderful.

JUNGE: How would you classify or categorize him politically? Was he a conservative judge?

GUTHRIE: He comes from a very strong Republican background. His father was I think maybe the only man in Wyoming who's been governor, U.S. representative and senator.

JUNGE: Frank Barrett?

GUTHRIE: Mm-hmm.

JUNGE: That was his grandfather?

GUTHRIE: That was his father and I don't know if there have been any others that have had all three of those jobs or not.

JUNGE: Governor, senator and U.S. representative. I doubt it. Well, Francis E. Warren, maybe, but I don't think so.

GUTHRIE: He wasn't in Congress.

JUNGE: He was governor and senator. Yeah, he might not have been in Congress.

GUTHRIE: I don't think there was any other person that's had all three of those positions.

JUNGE: Did he ever talk about his dad, Frank?

GUTHRIE: Jim Barrett lived in Lusk. Newcastle's ninety miles away from Lusk. When we would go through Lusk on the way home, we'd see Jim Barrett on the street. He didn't talk about his father.

JUNGE: I think I'd like to talk to him sometime.

GUTHRIE: He's very ill.

JUNGE: Oh, is he?

GUTHRIE: He's old and ill, so you'd better talk to him soon.

JUNGE: Have you talked to him recently?

GUTHRIE: Not recently, but he's a wonderful man. I would say his politics never interfered with his decisions, but I would say that you wouldn't call him a liberal activist judge.

JUNGE: Okay, what would you call yourself as a representative of the legal profession—liberal, middle-of-the-roader, conservative?

GUTHRIE: I'm certainly not conservative, but I don't think I'm wildly liberal. I just think you have to look at each situation as it comes along. I don't think I ever have a pre-conceived notion about a lot of things.

JUNGE: Sounds like a judge talking.

GUTHRIE: Mm-hmm.

JUNGE: Now you worked for the Attorney General's office for seventeen years?

GUTHRIE: Mm-hmm.

JUNGE: What year to what year?

GUTHRIE: From 1978 to 1995, I think it was.

JUNGE: Well, then, when did you work for Barrett--the two previous years?

GUTHRIE: '77 to '78.

JUNGE: Okay, what was your job over at the A.G.'s office?

GUTHRIE: Well, I started out with the Civil Division and did landlord work. A funny story—the land commissioner who had been there forever, his name was Bert King. He and I had not met and Pete Mulvaney, who was the deputy of the division, decided that he would take me to the first landlord meeting that's comprised of the five elected officials so I could meet him and I could meet some of the other people. So Pete and I walked in—here's Mr. King, who's very (deaf?) and very military and very...

JUNGE: Rigid?

GUTHRIE: Rigid is a good word—looked at Pete and me and said, “Pete, you and your secretary can sit over there.”

JUNGE: (Laughs).

GUTHRIE: That sort of told me how I had to deal with Mr. King.

JUNGE: And Pete said? Did he defend you?

GUTHRIE: He said, “This is your new attorney.”

JUNGE: Okay, was he gruff?

GUTHRIE: He was a little gruff, but I was able to figure out a way to get along with Mr. King. I can get along with a lot of people.

JUNGE: So, you were with the Department of Natural Resources?

GUTHRIE: Finally, but originally I was just (unintelligible) and then at one point I was with the Natural Resources Division?

JUNGE: And at one point you also represented the agency I worked for, the Recreation Commission.

GUTHRIE: And the History Department and the Archives and the State Library.

JUNGE: What did you make out of that big debate between the Recreation Commission and the State Archives?

GUTHRIE: That just seemed like a whole bunch of power. Anyway, there was that one Attorney General's opinion that came out, it said that if a window falls out...

JUNGE: Of a building.

GUTHRIE: The building (unintelligible) one agency has jurisdiction if it falls inside. I think it was probably a very good idea when those agencies were combined.

JUNGE: Did Herschler do that on your advice?

GUTHRIE: Mm-hmm ??

JUNGE: 'Cause you worked for him, right?

GUTHRIE: Yes. It was wonderful I think to work around Ed Herschler and see how his mind worked and his ability to get things done.

JUNGE: So describe that a little bit. I'm just curious. How was it to work for him, I mean, how did he operate, because he certainly didn't operate like Jim Geringer who would follow a particular line of thinking, like an engineer.

GUTHRIE: Unless you knew Ed Herschler, I couldn't describe what it was like. He was very bright and basically knew what he wanted to get done and got it done, and a character, certainly.

JUNGE: Oh, yeah, I know. He allowed me to get that first book done on Stimson—well, it wasn't my first book, but it was...

GUTHRIE: In fact, you know, this might be something if you ever want to do anything on Herschler, you should maybe go to have a visit with Dick Hartman, 'cause Dick has such good Ed Herschler memories.

JUNGE: Do you have any stories about Ed, going in to talk with him?

GUTHRIE: Not really. There are lots, but I can't bring them up now.

JUNGE: I would like to know that sometime. I really would, because I'm still a little bit nebulous, my brain is a little bit nebulous when it comes to Ed Herschler. I really like him. Did you like him personally?

GUTHRIE: Mm-hmm.

JUNGE: Did you also work for Sullivan?

GUTHRIE: Yes.

JUNGE: So what was that transition like from Herschler to Sullivan?

GUTHRIE: It was really pretty easy. You know, I think I worked for five attorneys general and the transitions were really all pretty easy.

JUNGE: Who were the A.G.'s that you worked for?

GUTHRIE: It started out with John Rooney, who was there for just a minute and then John Troughton, Steve Freudenthal, Archie McClintock, Joe Meyer and Bill Hill, so it was six.

JUNGE: The only one that's gone is McClintock, right, of those?

GUTHRIE: And John Rooney is dead.

JUNGE: Was it hard to work for anybody, I mean, making that transition? I mean, I can tell you about my bosses and how hard it would...

GUTHRIE: People were afraid, but basically there was no problem with transition. I think they just decided they were adults and worked in that office and they let them do what the prior administration let them do.

JUNGE: Did you have a lot of freedom?

GUTHRIE: Yes. Well, you certainly hated to pass anything controversial past someone and anything you did you certainly talked to the deputy before you did anything.

JUNGE: Now, you argued a case before the Supreme Court. Was that while you were working for the state?

GUTHRIE: Yes.

JUNGE: When was that?

GUTHRIE: In 1991.

JUNGE: Can you tell me about that?

GUTHRIE: That's it.

JUNGE: Oh, a plaque on the wall.

GUTHRIE: With a copy of the opinion and the feathers that they give you when you've argued the case and a quote from Mike Sullivan that says, "Mary, Re: Wyoming vs. Oklahoma, Congratulations. You have scored a victory for the commerce clause, Wyoming coal and Wyoming women. You have done us proud! -- Mike Sullivan."

JUNGE: Nice. Tell me about the case.

GUTHRIE: Under the commerce clause case in which the State of Oklahoma had passed a law that provided that at least ten percent of the coal used to generate electricity in Oklahoma had to be mined in Oklahoma. Oklahoma coal is very bad, very poor quality, so ninety-nine percent of all the coal used in power plants in Oklahoma comes from Wyoming. The issue is whether or not the law was a fence-out provision.

JUNGE: Now explain: some people listening to this some day in the future aren't going to know what "fence-out" means.

GUTHRIE: Fence-out means where states intentionally try to insure that their residents are given a preference over other residents of other states and so you can't pass a law that's going to interfere with the flow of interstate commerce, and certainly that was...

JUNGE: Seems like that would be a winner for you all the way.

GUTHRIE: It was.

JUNGE: Was it?

GUTHRIE: Yes. I think there were three dissents and six affirmative votes.

JUNGE: What was the temper of the court at the time?

GUTHRIE: It was the first day that Clarence Thomas was seated, which was a very interesting day. There was an awful lot of press around.

JUNGE: What a day to have to argue.

GUTHRIE: Justice White wrote the opinion.

JUNGE: Whizzer White?

GUTHRIE: He hated that name.

JUNGE: What was it?

GUTHRIE: It was Thyron White. He hated that name.

JUNGE: He hated Whizzer?

GUTHRIE: Mm-hmm.

JUNGE: It was a football appellation, I think. Anyway...

GUTHRIE: Justice Rehnquist voted against me. Justice Thomas--I can't think who the third one was.

JUNGE: What was the reasoning behind their voting against you ?

GUTHRIE: The (unintelligible) wasn't a commerce clause violation and the State of Oklahoma could do what it had chosen to do and, of course, there are some decisions that have come out that within reason states can say that their residents are treated differently than others.

JUNGE: Really? But in commerce?

GUTHRIE: Six to three, I'm sure.

JUNGE: Yeah, well, I'll check it out later.

GUTHRIE: Anyway, the case was Wyoming vs. Oklahoma.

JUNGE: And you won the case.

GUTHRIE: Mm-hmm.

JUNGE: I imagine you're pretty proud of that.

GUTHRIE: It was very nice. I don't know whether proud is the right thing, it was certainly nice -- you know pride...

JUNGE: "Pride cometh before a fall."

GUTHRIE: I'm teaching a literature class at LCCC and we just talked about (unintelligible) and the tragic flaw and pride and that kind of thing.

JUNGE: So, you're always on guard to...I think your father and mother had more to do with this than the study of Greek (unintelligible) (Laughs). This happened during Mike Sullivan's tenure?

GUTHRIE: Yes.

JUNGE: What did your dad think of this?

GUTHRIE: He was dead.

JUNGE: Oh, he was gone by that time.

GUTHRIE: Mm-hmm.

JUNGE: What do you think he would have said?

GUTHRIE: Oh, he would have been very pleased. He was always pleased with the things that his children did.

JUNGE: Did he expect them to be lawyers?

GUTHRIE: We talked about that earlier. He didn't encourage...he encouraged Nancy to maybe be a court reporter.

JUNGE: She wanted to be a journalist, didn't she, initially?

GUTHRIE: I can't remember. She majored in Spanish and maybe journalism, I don't know.

JUNGE: Did you both read as much and pay attention to academics as much?

GUTHRIE: She wasn't as academic. School wasn't as important to her. She was a middle child and the middle child is by far the more social child, sort of a devil-may-care.

JUNGE: You're not social?

GUTHRIE: I'm social, but she's really social.

JUNGE: (Laughs). Okay, you're social, so like what organizations do you belong to?

GUTHRIE: There are almost too many to name through the years. Right now one of the things that I really love doing is I play the trombone. I play in a group out at Laramie County Community College in the winter time called the LCCC Wind Symphony and I play in the Cheyenne City Band in the summer and I play in a group called the Trombone Ensemble. I belong to a book group.

JUNGE: What's the name of the book group?

GUTHRIE: Just a book club. Young Women's Literary, but that's not really the name of it. I also belong to a group called Blue(?) Stockings where we get together and give papers on things. I belong and am a member of PEO, but I don't go.

JUNGE: And church, of course.

GUTHRIE: And the church and then through the years I've been on a variety of different boards.

JUNGE: Like what, can you remember?

GUTHRIE: I mentioned some of them. I also belong to the Laramie County Bar Association and a group called the American INNS of Court, a lawyer's group.

JUNGE: What's it called?

GUTHRIE: The American INNS of Court.

JUNGE: INNS of Court?

GUTHRIE: I-N-N-S, it was founded by Justice O'Connor to try to encourage more civility in relationships between judges and attorneys. I belong to a fun little investment club called "Egg Money Investment Club." The boards I've been on through the years—I was on the Good Will Board, I was on the United Way Board, vestry of St. Mark's Church, Laramie County Community College Foundation, Laramie County Library Foundation, Little Theatre Board, PTA.

JUNGE: Keep going.

GUTHRIE: Keep going, yeah.

JUNGE: Well, I'm curious because I've been on a couple of boards now, the Institutional Review Board at the hospital and the Laramie County Library Foundation, the same one you're on and I'm just wondering, do you feel like you're able to accomplish things on those boards?

GUTHRIE: Not all the time. I'm sometimes not so sure what the whole mission is. One of the fun boards I was on though was the board of KUWR, which was sort of fun.

JUNGE: Really?

GUTHRIE: But I think a lot of times people don't listen and people sometimes already have an agenda and boards are just window dressing.

JUNGE: And you're there just sort of officiating, I mean, not officiating, but making it official and they're looking for some kind of board approbation.

GUTHRIE: I think sometimes its community involvement and community approval.

JUNGE: Isn't that what you get out of these things mostly is the connections and camaraderie?

GUTHRIE: I think so. Right, and that's fun.

JUNGE: Yeah, and I can see why you do it for that reason, but myself...

GUTHRIE: When I hear people say, "It makes me want to give back to the community," it makes me want to get sick.

JUNGE: Makes you want to throw up when you hear that. Well, it's true probably for some people, is it for you?

GUTHRIE: No. I belong to Rotary. It's fun to go to Rotary. I was on the executive board of Rotary for a while.

JUNGE: What is the longest time you've been a member of an organization and maybe still are?

GUTHRIE: Well, probably the Cheyenne City Band.

JUNGE: (Laughs). Okay.

GUTHRIE: I'm a 50-year member of Pi Beta Phi, 50-year member of PEO, but those aren't things that you meet very often.

JUNGE: I think McWhinnie and maybe Larson too were members of Rotary, like almost charter members in Laramie.

GUTHRIE: Plus Mac's involvement with the Sigma Nu Fraternity was so very important to him.

JUNGE: And Dave Foreman's.

GUTHRIE: Dave's, yeah.

JUNGE: Yeah.

TAPE 2

JUNGE: Let me put something on here real briefly. Today is the 7th of May, 2010 and I'm in the home of Mary Belle Guthrie and Marshall Smith here at 2814 Capitol Avenue and we're in day two of our interview. I just want to say, Mary that I love talking to you and this has been a lot of fun for me.

GUTHRIE: Well, it's mutual. In fact, isn't it fun to belong to a mutual admiration society?

JUNGE: (Laughs). Yes.

GUTHRIE: I won't break out into a song.

JUNGE: Okay. Here's what I wanted to do if it's okay with you, I typed this new outline and the new outline I have a couple questions about your early life and then education, career, retirement, awards and then your (unintelligible). Do you know what (unintelligible) is?

GUTHRIE: No.

JUNGE: That's a German word, means world view, world outlook.

GUTHRIE: Okay. The problem is both of us like to talk too much, so that's the reason it's taken two days.

JUNGE: (Laughs). I think so. I'm going to try to shut up and let you do most of the talking because that's my biggest fault, and that's the biggest fault of any interviewer is talking too much. But I do want to say that Mary's voice today is a little hoarse. Why is that?

GUTHRIE: I have a summer cold.

JUNGE: Okay. So, she's not going to sound her normal self, but her brain is still operating, which is most important.

GUTHRIE: Now, you say some interviewers talk too much, but I don't think someone like Terry Gross from Fresh Air -- she has a magic ability to get stuff out so maybe you should just try to emulate Terry Gross.

JUNGE: I do. Bill Moyers, Terry Gross -- not so much Charlie Rose, but he is good when he listens and Studs Terkel.

GUTHRIE: Mm-hmm.

JUNGE: You know, those are my heroes and there's other people who are good too, but those are some of my big...did I tell you I met Studs Terkel? I'll tell you about that after this. Okay, did we forget any child childhood memories, because there was just a flood of them coming out and I think I squelched some of them. We talked about a few. Do you have any really outstanding childhood memories?

GUTHRIE: Well, just...and again, this probably romanticized by the passing of time, but how easy it was to grow up in a small town.

JUNGE: Newcastle.

GUTHRIE: Newcastle, which had about 3,500 people. At one point there were a few more people who moved in because of an oil boom. We just had a lot of freedom. We spent a lot of time in the Black Hills. My mother—even though she was trained and had worked as a teacher-- after we were born she never worked outside the home again. She substituted in the school system a while. She had everything done by the weekend, so we, instead of like most women now who have to spend the weekend...

JUNGE: Catching up.

GUTHRIE: Doing all their housework and so we were able to do a lot of fun things, go to the Black Hills a lot and traveled a lot and my parents both had a nice interest in a variety of things and so like one

year we went off to Oregon on a family trip and father was a great history buff and so we followed the Oregon Trail. And these were the days before the interstate, so roads were built along where things had happened, so we stopped at every museum on the way to Oregon, every billboard, every sign along the way. That's a nice way to learn history is to actually see it.

JUNGE: And you actually stopped at these places?

GUTHRIE: Right.

JUNGE: And all of you did learn.

Guthrie: Right. Of course, those opportunities aren't there anymore 'cause we all just whiz by in our busy lives or we just fly over.

JUNGE: What kind of car did you have?

GUTHRIE: My father always bought Chevrolets because he had a client who owned a Chevrolet dealership and you have to be loyal to your clients.

JUNGE: Okay, that's true, that's true. Did your mother enjoy these trips too?

GUTHRIE: I think so.

JUNGE: Where did you guys stay, did you stay in motels?

GUTHRIE: Motels. My father never could have stood the prospect of camping.

JUNGE: Really? That wasn't his style. What is your most pleasurable memory as a child?

GUTHRIE: That's not very fair. You should have given me a chance to think about that.

JUNGE: (Laughs).

GUTHRIE: It's funny how our minds work. I think it probably might not have been as pleasurable as I think, but Christmas was always a really fun time. My father was an attorney, but attorneys at one time didn't make the amount of money that they do now and so Christmas was always nice and we got some lovely gifts, but it wasn't the excess that sometimes people bestow on their children. My parents were very clever. They had a tradition--instead of Santa Claus coming on Christmas day--Santa Claus came on Christmas Eve. That's the way both of them had been raised. So we would go out and take a drive and see the city lights on Christmas Eve and then get back home and Santa Claus would have been there. You can see why I believed in Santa Claus far longer. We'd go to school and someone would say, "Well, you know, your parents just get up in the middle of the night and put those gifts out," and we'd say, "Oh, no. We know that nobody was there giving them out." And one year an extraordinary (unintelligible) we ended up coming back. My parents had a fireplace in their house. There were these (unintelligible) footsteps that came from the fireplace and there in the middle of the room was a dog and Santa had left us a note. He said, "Here is a dog, "Teddy," and hopefully we think you should call him Teddy because he looks like a teddy bear, part Airedale and part who-knows-what. (Unintelligible) Well, who's not going to believe in Santa Claus if your parents were with you? So you know that they...

JUNGE: (Laughs). How did they do it?

GUTHRIE: Well, they had friends, friends that would just show up and do it. And Teddy developed a real reputation in Newcastle (unintelligible). Also, in Newcastle, there was no such thing as a leash law. They just let your animals roam. Teddy would follow my parent's car down to the post office just about a mile away. Teddy finally had to go out to a ranch to live. Nancy and I found out that Teddy had probably gone to doggie heaven. But that's one of my fun memories. You know that is clever, I mean, who wouldn't believe if you had the truth that your parents weren't doing this you wouldn't have thought that...

JUNGE: That's beautiful. Cambria. Was Cambria out of operation by that time?

GUTHRIE: Oh sure. It was out of operation by the '30s, maybe before that, but that's a nice thing. As I got older, several of us would walk up the old railroad tracks, which was eight miles to Cambria and then maybe somebody would come and pick us up. One of the fascinating things about Cambria was the cemetery because there so many different immigrants who'd come from all different

parts of the world. The cemetery was fascinating. You'd go by these plots and there would be pictures of people on the grave markers and you'd go by and there would be cradles (unintelligible) and you could also figure out where there had been a mine disaster or flu epidemic. I'm not sure how long Cambria had been in existence as a coal mine, but I don't think it was a tremendously long time. And then a story, I'm not sure how much this is true, when the company decided that things were over, people just up and left and one of the stories I remember was that somebody left (unintelligible) water running on the grass. Of course, you know, we had to pay for water in those days, but I don't think there is much in Cambria at all anymore.

JUNGE: So, there are these abandoned homes.

GUTHRIE: Abandoned homes.

JUNGE: The one thing that fascinated me after talking with Mabel Brown was Diamond "Slim" Clifton, the hanging of Diamond...

GUTHRIE: He was the last person to be hanged. I can't remember very much about it.

JUNGE: They hung him from like the bridge in downtown or something like that.

GUTHRIE: I wish I could remember the name of the sheriff.

JUNGE: Muller. Johnny Muller.

GUTHRIE: Right.. Helen Oliver (?), Mrs. Oliver, was one of the oldest ladies in town.

JUNGE: That's the one I interviewed.

GUTHRIE: And it was her father.

JUNGE: Did you know her?

GUTHRIE: Yes, pretty well. The thing about growing up in a small town is that you have friends of all different generations.

JUNGE: Good point.

GUTHRIE: And her husband's name was Curtis Oliver, I remember, and she had children, maybe ten years older than I, but you look up to some of these kids and Helen Oliver in fact lived to be a very, very old lady because the Ann Miller (?) Museum in Newcastle was named after her mother because I think her mother was the first white woman born in Weston County.

JUNGE: Yeah. So -- Helen Oliver. Interesting. Okay, so that's your pleasurable memories. What's the most painful?

GUTHRIE: I think I have always been able to repress painful memories.

JUNGE: Yeah, me too. Or I don't admit them.

GUTHRIE: Mm-hmm.

JUNGE: So, overall your memory is pretty good?

GUTHRIE: Yes..

JUNGE: Yeah. Okay. Now--education. We skipped this too. Did I ask you yesterday, Mary, why you chose law, why you went to law school?

GUTHRIE: Well, I always thought about going to law school and just decided it was the thing to do.

JUNGE: But I mean, you were English major.

GUTHRIE: I started out. I majored in English, and then taught school a couple of years in Laramie, Laramie Senior High School.

JUNGE: You did? What, English?

GUTHRIE: Yeah, and then we moved to Cheyenne. That first year I didn't give them notice and we didn't move to Cheyenne until we found out my former husband had passed the bar, so it was like August, I couldn't find a job, so I substituted and tutored some child and did volunteer work at the V.A. and then decided to go to law school, so I was 29 before I went to law school, but I don't think there's anything wrong...sometimes people choose law school because it's something to do. John Grisham has a really interesting description of law school in one of his books and it's called the "babysitter for directionless post-grads" because there are people who go to law school because they don't know what else to do.

JUNGE: Really? I thought that lawyers went there specifically because they wanted to make money or something.

GUTHRIE: I can't tell you what makes people decide.

JUNGE: But in your case, it was a holding pattern in a way.

GUTHRIE: It's what I wanted to do. I had a very nice experience with the law. You know, a lot—I can't say a lot—it's so easy to generalize, but there are some lawyers who aren't very happy being lawyers, but because I worked for the government, I didn't have to worry about bringing in clients and billing and all the business of the law. That's one aspect, and in addition, I had such fascinating things to do, but I always loved being a lawyer. A man who was president of the Wyoming State Bar, Gerald Mason, and unfortunately he died tragically of some terrible cancer, coined the expression while he was president, "proud to be a Wyoming lawyer." I'm proud to be a Wyoming lawyer.

JUNGE: That's a nice thing to say. And I agree with you about, you know, working for the state where you don't have to worry about bringing in the cash. It's always going to be there, the check's always there.

GUTHRIE: And, again, not that I want to sound too noble, I was lucky to be involved in a lot of exciting sorts of things that (unintelligible).

JUNGE: Well, all right, what was the most exciting thing?

GUTHRIE: I think probably my argument in the U.S. Supreme Court was the ultimate.

JUNGE: Who asked you to do that?

GUTHRIE: Well, interesting thing, a woman who was a lawyer for a coal company at that time in Oklahoma, Shell Oil was her employer, actually came to the state and said, "I don't think you even know that there's this law out there that is going to keep Wyoming coal from being sold in Oklahoma. What do you think about pursuing a lawsuit?" And Archie McClintock was the Attorney General and he asked some of us to get together and look at this issue. And so, two or three of us looked at the information that they had. We went back and I said---the idea was to bring it as an original action. Under the U.S. Constitution, states are permitted to sue other states as initial actions, so you don't have to go through district court or the appellate court. You just sue in the U.S. Supreme Court. So, I said, "Oh, the Supreme Court would never accept the case. I think that maybe the coal companies should be bringing the lawsuit rather than me. I don't think it makes any sense." Well, Archie was such a delightful friend. He said, "Oh, Mary," he said, "I think we're just going to give it a chance and you can do it." So I had this little team, there were three of us who worked on it. I'm sure it's the cheapest lawsuit that's ever gone to the Supreme Court because we had no outside counsel. We only had one or two experts that we talked to in order to develop some of our pleadings and we even had all the printing done in Wyoming, so it's too bad, I think, sometimes the state has a sort of inferiority complex. You have one of these great big lawsuits, some big name and that wasn't the case, so it turned out (unintelligible) so there were three of us worked very desperately, or not desperately, but we worked a tremendous amount of time on this case and you know, as I say, even though the Constitution says there will be lawsuits and when a state sues another state it will be in court, the Supreme Court sometimes doesn't have to exercise its jurisdiction. Well, the Supreme Court decided that it would appoint a special master to hear the case and so the case went up then on the special master's recommendations, but it was very interesting. It was in 1991 when we did all this work, well it was before that too, but 1991 was when the case was argued and when I was getting ready to file the brief in the case, it was in June of 1991, I was just putting the very finishing touches on the brief that was to be sent to the U.S. Supreme Court and that was the time when my father got so sick. So I got a phone call from the hospital saying that my father was really ill and I had to come over. So first of all, I walked over to the post office to make sure that this document got mailed before I went over to check on my father. Well, then he died and then my mother --and I think we mentioned this--died three months later. The day she died or very shortly thereafter I

got news that the case was in September, but the case would be set for oral argument in November, so it was a nice challenge in my life in terms of a personal challenge as well as a professional challenge. So, by then Joe Meyer was the Attorney General. I decided I wanted to make sure that I knew more about the commerce clause on the day I argued the case than anybody else. So I went in to him. "Joe," I said, "This is a really important case for Wyoming and this is an important case for this office and an important case for me personally. I would like to propose this—I would like to work on this case as long as I want to throughout the day and I'll work on this case first and then if I have any other time then I'll work on the other things that I do." He was fine with that. So, I did a lot of work, read every case (unintelligible) search capability where you can type in things like every computer search now, but at that time it was pretty sophisticated. So, I typed in, and our brief (unintelligible) but I decided I should know about some of these cases that were on the periphery, so I typed in a search for the phrase "commerce clause" back to the time in the 1960s when Justice White, who was the oldest member of the court, because I wanted to see what they might have said about the commerce clause in any context. Well, I got 435 cases that I speed read.

JUNGE: How do you speed read? Must be summarized.

GUTHRIE: Well, you can find summaries and that kind of thing. Law books always have a summary at the front, but I did read 435 cases. I probably couldn't have been tested on them. The National Association of Attorneys General was very helpful. At one point Chief Justice Berger(?) thought that state attorneys probably weren't as well prepared as they should be, so he encouraged NAAG, the National Association of Attorneys General, to provide some really good programs for state attorneys. So I had all these video tapes that I watched of other people arguing all sorts of tips. I went back to a conference in Washington a couple of years before our argument where I actually watched cases being argued in the U.S. Supreme Court and went to a seminar. Then there was a law firm in this area that was very interested in this lawsuit and I went to Denver and was given a moot court by some of their senior attorneys.

JUNGE: Now what is a moot court?

GUTHRIE: A moot court is like a practice court.

JUNGE: Okay.

GUTHRIE: So, I was just basically given the opportunity to make my argument and then someone from their firm also made the argument that the state of Oklahoma would probably make. I was just video taped and critiqued and so I was really getting very well-prepared. There was one of these NAAG videos. There was this interesting sort of thing—a person standing on the steps of the Supreme Court--the steps are pretty shallow. It panned up and saw this man and panned back. The narrator said, “United States Supreme Court—it doesn’t matter how well prepared you are or how experienced you are, the first time you argue a case here fear will be stricken in your heart.”

JUNGE: (Laughs.)

GUTHRIE: ‘Cause I had argued dozens of cases in the Wyoming Supreme Court. That’s a bunch of silliness. So I get back from Washington and I go back there a few days early. It was howling when I left here and it was snowing and it was terrible. I thought, “If I don’t get out right now, the planes will never take off. Anyway, I get back to Washington. I arrive on a Thursday, the argument isn’t until Monday, but that was one of the suggestions that all of the people give you—don’t just breeze in for one of these arguments -- get back, get comfortable, that kind of thing. I had had quite a few dealings with the man who was the deputy clerk of the Supreme Court. So after I had been there a day, I thought, well I’ll just go over and see my friend Frank Larson. I was staying at a darling hotel, the only Irish hotel in Washington where Governor Mike Sullivan used to stay. It was right across the street from Union Station, so it was a very short walking distance to the Supreme Court building. I put on my walking shoes and decided I would go see Frank. Well, I got over there and find out he’s not there, but before I get to the building, suddenly all of this man’s words about “fear will be stricken in your heart” the closer I get to the building, I think, “Mary, you’re not prepared, Mary, that’s just a terrifying thing to think of. Why didn’t you let somebody else do it? Why didn’t you hire some hotshot from Washington?” Well, I get to Frank’s office and I’m just a mess. He wasn’t there, so I said, “I guess I’ll go upstairs so that when I embarrass myself, at least I’ll know what the venue is going to be. So I walk up and the Supreme Court courtroom is not very large, it isn’t as large as our Supreme Court courtroom. There were red theatre ropes to keep people out of the room, but you could look in and I’m standing up there just shaking almost and a couple of women came by and they said what was I doing and I said—to put this in the context as follows – 1991 was the year of all those bitter hearings about Clarence Thomas and he was going to be seated for the first time on Monday.

This was like Thursday, so I thought everyone in the world knew a lot about the Supreme Court and one of these women said to the other “I can’t remember how many people are on the Supreme Court, five or seven.” And I wanted to be a showoff. I turned to them and I said, “There are nine.” So they said “How do you know that?” And I said, “I’m going to argue a case next week.” You could hear the fear in my voice. Well, these women were so delighted. They asked about the case and they were so delighted to meet a woman from Wyoming who was arguing a case and they took my picture. Suddenly, I was not so afraid. I left and walked around and went to a law office to see some people I knew and Friday I had another moot court put on by the National Association of Attorneys General. Some of the people on this panel were a man who had been on the Federal Power Commission, a woman who had clerked for Justice Potter Stewart and a couple of other high power people and I was having so much fun. Appellate argument ideally is a conversation between the advocate and the court. You’re trying to address any issues they might have and they’re trying to get you to clarify your position, but it can be (unintelligible) getting up and giving a speech. I was having this great time answering all the questions—maybe we should go back. I stopped at a different place and maybe my mind stopped. In appellate advocacy many times you really feel as an attorney...

JUNGE: Oh, speech making, yeah.

GUTHRIE:that you’re getting somewhere as people are asking you questions. If they’re just like stoic people, then you know that they’re not (unintelligible). So any how these questions were being asked and the woman who clerked for Justice Stewart asked me about a case about which I had never heard. Now, mind you, I had been (unintelligible) and then having read all these other cases, I couldn’t believe there was a case that I didn’t know anything about. I’ve never been very good at pretending I know more than I do. It seems to me that if someone knows more than I do and are in a position of power, I would look pretty silly if I try to pretend I know something I don’t know. So, I just said “Well, I’m not familiar with the case, but if you’ll just tell me what the issue is, I’ll be happy to address it in the context of this argument. Well, she said it doesn’t matter. Well, immediately after my argument was over I went down to this law firm and looked at this case and it had nothing to do with what we were talking about. I thought that’s the oddest thing I’ve ever heard. So I read it again and I had some of my friends who’d come back to watch me argue read it and nobody could think of any reason why it was asked. Then on Monday when I was arguing the case, Justice Scalia asked me about the same case and I was able in a very nice way to tell him that I didn’t think it had any bearing, I told him what it was about and had no

bearing on the case and that was a very interesting experience. So that just shows you that preparation can be so important.

JUNGE: Do you think that woman knew that Scalia would ask that question?

GUTHRIE: Of course not.

JUNGE: I mean, she just picked one case out of the blue.

GUTHRIE: Sure, it was just a wild sort of thing, so it was really funny. So, anyway, that was like on Friday and then I had Joe Meyer, the Attorney General, flew in and Vickie Colgan who'd worked on the brief with me flew in.

JUNGE: Colgan. Is she related to Celeste?

GUTHRIE: Vickie is Rita Meyer's deputy.

JUNGE: Oh. Okay. Yeah.

GUTHRIE: Harry Wolf and his wife flew in. The woman who'd gotten us on to the case flew in. So, there were about thirteen or fourteen people, a woman whose father was an attorney who was going to school at Georgetown, so I had a nice little cheering section. Anyway, now we've wandered enough on that.

JUNGE: No, no. That's, if anything, we've talked about —among all the things we've talked about, that's probably the most significant story.

GUTHRIE: It was fascinating.

JUNGE: Yeah, it is. Were you the first woman in Wyoming to argue before the Supreme Court?

GUTHRIE: Sue Davidson argued a case -- had to do with Niobrara County and voting. Remember in the late '80s Wyoming had to re-district and Niobrara County was so small that it couldn't have any kind of..

JUNGE: Representation.

GUTHRIE: Representation and so she represented I think the League of Women Voters.

JUNGE: She was a lawyer?

GUTHRIE: Yes.

JUNGE: She was the first?

GUTHRIE: Well, I don't know if she was the first, but I don't think that too many people have had that opportunity.

JUNGE: Well, you'd think that you'd know. I mean, this is such a privilege, such an honor.

GUTHRIE: I'm sure she probably might have been the first, I don't know.

JUNGE: No, I mean in your case. You might have been just the second person ever. Well, I mean there have been men.

GUTHRIE: Oh, there have been lots of men. Bruce Salzburg, the present Attorney General argued a case. Terry Mackey argued one. Jack Speight I think argued one.

JUNGE: He did?

GUTHRIE: I don't know for sure.

JUNGE: How would you describe the temper of the A.G.'s office? Was it conservative?

GUTHRIE: As far as I was concerned, it was apolitical.

JUNGE: Really?

GUTHRIE: When I started with Governor Herschler and then all that time, then it was Governor Sullivan.

JUNGE: Did you mention how you got appointed by Herschler yesterday?

GUTHRIE: What do you mean appointed?

JUNGE: Or, I mean picked for that job.

GUTHRIE: He didn't have anything to do with the Attorney General's office.

JUNGE: Oh.

GUTHRIE: I was hired by John Rooney who was there for just four or five months.

JUNGE: Okay, did you know him personally before you got hired?

GUTHRIE: John Rooney? Uh-uhh.

JUNGE: So how did he know about you?

GUTHRIE: I applied for the job. I have a funny story about that. After my year with Judge Barrett I decided I should find something else to do. Being a clerk is a wonderful thing, but I think most clerks would rather be judges some day. So I applied for a position and I went in to be interviewed and John Rooney was there along with about three or four other men. John Rooney became a very dear friend, but at the time I didn't know him. He said to me, he said, "It's nice to visit with you." He said, "There's just one thing I have to tell you. Someone in this room is a male chauvinist pig." I've always decided that it's much easier to deal with things with humor. (Unintelligible) I have young women attorney friends who have probably never even heard the term. But he would have been really angry. I said, "Who?" He said "I am." Now mind you, he was teasing because I think he had six daughters and one son. He couldn't have had that kind of view. He just wanted to see how I would react. And then I said something that now would probably be considered politically incorrect. I said, "Well, don't worry Mr. Rooney," I said, "Some of my best friends have been male chauvinist pigs." (Laughs).

JUNGE: (Laughs). That's such a great comeback.
Did you feel like you were among very bright people for the most part?

GUTHRIE: Yes.

JUNGE: In law school, the same way, you were among bright people, did you feel comfortable?

GUTHRIE: Mm-hmm.

JUNGE: I mean -- did you feel their equal or their match?

GUTHRIE: Sure.

JUNGE: I'm trying to find out about your confidence.

GUTHRIE: Hard work makes you awfully confident. If you work hard enough and do a good job, you're going to always feel comfortable.

JUNGE: Isn't that the truth about work? You work hard...

GUTHRIE: Yes. Luck is really hard work at the right time, I think a lot of it.

JUNGE: You don't believe in luck?

GUTHRIE: I don't really believe in luck so much as...I suppose if I win the lottery today it would be very hard since I've never bought a lottery ticket in my life.

JUNGE: Yeah. Okay, but you think that luck comes along with hard work?

GUTHRIE: Being in the right place at the right time, maybe even having the right mentors, all those sorts of things.

JUNGE: You hadn't entered law school when you had Bartley, right?

GUTHRIE: That's right. No, I got pregnant the first week I was in law school, so I finished the first semester like in early June and had a child on the 30th of June. It's funny because one of my professors was a marvelous man who taught contract and he taught labor law, but he had no sense of humor. So after I took my contracts test, I went up to him and said, "You know, Mr. Henderson, I think you've made a mistake" and he got this terribly shocked look, and is said, "You gave me the contracts test and I should have been taking labor law." He didn't think that was too funny.

JUNGE: Did having a child interrupt your progress?

GUTHRIE: Right. My former husband and I then had to move back to Laramie. He was a new associate in a law firm and I tried going another semester, but it was not very easy to have a little kid and wake up in the middle of the night and that kind of thing. It happened for a reason, so I should have graduated in 1972 from law school. Instead, I graduated in 1977.

JUNGE: Oh, it took five years to get that, what do you call it, J.D.?

GUTHRIE: Well, it took more than that. I started in 1969.

JUNGE: So, it really did change your life, having a kid?

GUTHRIE: Mm-hmm, but I was happy. We lived on a little ranchette outside of Laramie and had horses and pigs, had some ducks and geese and had a garden and I made all the bread we ate. For two years, I never bought bread—like the early '70s when a lot of people sort of went back to nature--did a lot of athletic things, lot of cross-country skiing, and bicycle riding. I don't think people should ever regret any decisions they make. I mean, if somebody puts a gun to their head, it seems to me you could regret it, but otherwise whatever decision is made, that's it and you walk away.

JUNGE: This is off the subject, but are we pre-destined, then?

GUTHRIE: I don't think so.

JUNGE: You don't think so?

GUTHRIE: I don't believe in pre-destination, no. You sound like a Calvinist or something.

JUNGE: No, no. I'm just probing. I'm reading Tom Wolff's "Hooking Up" and he's talking about neuroscience and how it's the next hottest thing after the computer information age, discovering how the mind works and he says there's people like E.O. Wilson who say that if we can determine the molecular structure of the brain and how everything interacts atomically.

GUTHRIE: Anatomically.

JUNGE: Then we can pretty much tell how a person is going to react to anything.

GUTHRIE: I think that's it, but that not pre-destination.

JUNGE: Why? Because I'll know how you'll react.

GUTHRIE: I think the Calvinists say that there's some force up there that has pre-destined how we're all going to...

JUNGE: Well, but this is civics. The force is civics.

GUTHRIE: Maybe you and I are talking about different words.

JUNGE: Okay.

GUTHRIE: (Laughs). You're not going to get me.

JUNGE: No, I'm not going to get you. Uh, have you heard any stories about Judge Barrett working for him?

GUTHRIE: Well, he was a wonderful man. He worked very hard. Of course, one of the Judge Barrett stories that everyone in Wyoming knows is how that when he was the Attorney General he was involved in that terrible plane wreck. You know that story.

JUNGE: Tell me because I...refresh my memory anyway.

GUTHRIE: He was flying to Rawlins for some reason and was flying in a state plane and at that time they only had one pilot on the state plane and the man had a heart attack and died. And so, here was Jim Barrett up in the air and I think the man also had slumped over so that something happened to the radio, so the people on the ground could hear him, but he couldn't hear them. And so he ended up finally just waiting until all the fuel ran out and crashed into a field. (Judge James Barrett's oral history and transcript is available through the Wyoming State Archives)

JUNGE: Really?

GUTHRIE: I'm sure there are better versions of the story than I just gave you.

JUNGE: How did he survive?

GUTHRIE: He had all sorts of health issues after that, bad back, I think his face was rather badly damaged.

JUNGE: So was he steering the plane then?

GUTHRIE: He steered it, missed hitting a school and a church and all sorts of things.

JUNGE: Wow.

GUTHRIE: He's a wonderful man--a very kind, bright guy and it was nice to work with him.

JUNGE: Okay. Did he have a sense of humor?

GUTHRIE: Mm-hmm.

JUNGE: When you worked for people like Barrett and Meyer and all the others, you worked for Meyer, right?

GUTHRIE: Yes. Probably the smartest man I worked for was Steve Freudenthal.

JUNGE: Really?

GUTHRIE: He's just brilliant.

JUNGE: Really? Hmm. Did you ever disagree and then have to keep your mouth shut or did you basically just...

GUTHRIE: I think there are very few people if they ask someone to work on a project or ask for their advice can just ignore what someone says. If someone asks me to do a project and they say, "Mary, had you thought about this?" and I say "yes" and I'll come up and say "I don't think your approach is the right approach."

JUNGE: Really?

GUTHRIE: As I said earlier, than when I worked for the Attorney General's office, and I'm sure it's still the same way, you would not pass what's trying to make the governor look good or anything like that you would just—a lawyer is supposed to do the best job he could do.

JUNGE: But I guess what I'm referring to is that, you know you and I talked on the phone the other day and I asked you what you thought of the Bill Ayers case.

GUTHRIE: Mm-hmm

JUNGE: Okay and I had an opinion about it and that's why I wanted to know your opinion and you had an opinion that differed from mine, but you're so diplomatic. Did that ever occur?

GUTHRIE: That happens a lot.

JUNGE: And how do you approach that problem?

GUTHRIE: I think it just depends. There are times, I'm sure that the Attorney General (unintelligible) different from mine, so you give your two bits and that's it. The interesting thing, when I worked for the City of Cheyenne I had been with the Attorney General for seventeen years and I got a call that day from Joe Dougherty, who at that time was Mayor Pando's administrative assistant, "Did I want to come work for the city?" Well, I didn't know Leo and I didn't know Joe. I thought, "Well, why should I want to leave this nice job?" I thought about it, and they

sort of courted me. Several of them came to call and I thought, “Well, maybe I need a change. Maybe I need a different kind challenge.” Before I went down and told Leo I would work for him, I said, “You’re hiring me because (unintelligible). I’m not going to tell you what you want to hear. If I didn’t think it was the right thing, so it made it very easy.

JUNGE: What did he say?

GUTHRIE: He said “fine.” And as a result, I was the city attorney for five years and then I stayed a couple of years after Leo was no longer the mayor. The city was never sued based on my advice.

JUNGE: That’s a proud thing to say.

GUTHRIE: It’s because the City of Cheyenne, after I was there and I’m sure probably before, had a lot of lawsuits they had to defend based on the advice of a few people.

JUNGE: How do you account for that?

GUTHRIE: I wasn’t concerned about keeping my job. I thought I would just tell them what was right.

JUNGE: That’s great.

GUTHRIE: Yes. That’s a nice sort of thing.

JUNGE: Absolutely. Why did they want you? For that very reason?

GUTHRIE: I don’t know, probably. I think Maybe Jack Gage, the city attorney who was going to retire, had suggested me, I don’t know.

JUNGE: That’s not “the” Jack Gage?

GUTHRIE: It was his son.

JUNGE: Oh, okay. He might have made a recommendation. How would you describe yourself? Even tempered?

GUTHRIE: I think for the most part very little gets me upset.

JUNGE: That's a nice quality.

GUTHRIE: At least I don't show it. I think, too, about getting older and have come to the conclusion that there not much you can get upset about 'cause you can't really control a lot of the stuff that people get upset about, right?

JUNGE: I know. Was your dad the same way?

GUTHRIE: My father was pretty volatile. He had a pretty good temper.

JUNGE: So, you didn't pick it up from him?

GUTHRIE: No.

JUNGE: Did you pick it up from your mother?

GUTHRIE: I don't know. Who knows? (unintelligible)

JUNGE: (Laughs). Well, you mentioned in a little essay to me before we started this interview that there were some important things happening in Wyoming. You were brought in during Herschler's administration and served there seven or nine years, something like that, and then worked all the way through Sullivan's.

GUTHRIE: And Geringer, part of Geringer's.

JUNGE: Oh, you did? I thought that's the reason why you were gone that year is because he got elected.

GUTHRIE: No, no, no. I have a very nice letter hanging on my wall from Jim Geringer thanking me for all the good work that I did for the state of Wyoming.

JUNGE: Really?

GUTHRIE: When I worked for the state, I don't know if this is still the case, I can't think of anyone who got released from the Attorney General's office when there was a change of administration. I can't think of a single soul. Maybe after that there were a few, but not...no, I was just as happy as a clam there until I got this opportunity that made me have to think on my feet a little bit more.

JUNGE: Oh, really? Did it mean a decrease in salary?

GUTHRIE: No.

JUNGE: An increase? Was there an increase in salary to go from the state to the city?

GUTHRIE: There was a decrease, but I've always thought it isn't how much you make, its how you spend it.

JUNGE: And we all know that because you don't have a TV.

GUTHRIE: People should live beneath their means, not above their means.

JUNGE: You're a fiscal conservative.

GUTHRIE: I have a good time.

JUNGE: Anyway, what was going on in the state? How did the state change from the time you came in under Herschler to the time you left under Geringer?

GUTHRIE: There were a lot of interesting energy issues that came and went. When I was in the A.G.'s office, Mark Hopkinson's case was there for so many years.

JUNGE: Can I ask you about that. We got time, right?

GUTHRIE: Sure.

JUNGE: What was your opinion? Did you work with Leonard Munker?

GUTHRIE: No. That was the other side.

JUNGE: Oh, yeah. Excuse me. I thought he worked in the A.G.'s office. Maybe the Public Defender.

GUTHRIE: Public Defender. In fact, it's interesting you ask that question because John Troughton (?) was the Attorney General when Hopkinson's appeals came up and he asked Bruce Salzburg, who's now present Attorney General, to put together a team to work on a brief that would be in response to whatever Hopkinson's attorneys had filed. So Bruce asked me and Sharon Lyman (?) and a man whose name was Bryan (?), I think there were four of us, to work on this case. And so the way he did it, he divided it up into different areas and gave each of us two or three issues to address, then he would go through and check them all and decide if he wanted to make any changes. Every night this marvelous woman stayed and retyped everything so that every day Bruce had a clean copy of the brief.

JUNGE: Who was this, do you remember the woman?

GUTHRIE: Yes. Donna Olsen.

JUNGE: Is she still alive? Yeah. Okay.

GUTHRIE: She's not very old. Her husband just died. He'd been with the DCI—but one of the issues I had...

JUNGE: Olsen typed up all this stuff every night?

GUTHRIE: Every night. It was this machine. So, one of the issues I had been asked to research on was whether pictures of Jeffrey Greene that were actually permitted to be shown to the jury had so prejudiced the jury that (unintelligible). These pictures had so prejudiced the jury that Hopkinson had not gotten a fair trial. Now Jeff Greene had been terribly, brutally tortured and left at a roadside rest stop.

JUNGE: Remind me who Jeff Greene was.

GUTHRIE: Jeff Greene was the man that had basically testified against Mark Hopkinson, or was going to testify against Mark Hopkinson in the trial and Hopkinson was in prison in Lompoc, California, on another charge when Jeff Greene died. Even though Mark Hopkinson couldn't have killed Jeff Greene, he was tried on the fact that he had ordered him killed from that prison. See, Hopkinson was in prison for some kind of federal firearms, he had threatened some lawyer in Arizona and put bombs in his car, I can't recall (dog growling) (inaudible). But anyway, I had done all this work on an argument of whether or not the pictures had been prejudicial. So Greene had been cut and there had been cigarette burns on his face and tortured really badly. It was the idea, the message should be that narcs get bad treatment if they... so I did all this work, but I had never seen the pictures. So, one day when I went to the Supreme Court to look at the pictures as I was going in to the building, Bruce Salzburg was coming out and he said, "What are you doing here?" and I said, "Well I was here to look at the pictures. Usually when you write something, you should really know what the evidence is." And Bruce said, "Mary, those pictures are so gruesome, I won't let you look at them." He said, "I'll just read your argument very carefully obviously and decide whether or not I have to add anything." So I was involved in the very first Hopkinson brief. There was a great fear from some of the people who worked on the case that maybe there might be some retribution. One of the persons didn't even want her name on the brief, but nothing happened obviously.

JUNGE: What was the brief about that you were working on?

GUTHRIE: The brief that we were working on was to appeal the conditions of murder, the murder of Jeff Greene.

JUNGE: What was your part in it?

GUTHRIE: Just this little person who was going to respond to a couple of issues that had been raised by the...

JUNGE: Do you remember what they were?

GUTHRIE: Prejudicial pictures.

JUNGE: Oh, okay.

GUTHRIE: And one of the others was that maybe there had been a circus because of Gerry Spence's involvement, maybe there was this whole atmosphere that seemed like a circus and that had also been prejudicial.

JUNGE: And what was your opinion of that, was it a circus?

GUTHRIE: No and I think in my opinion, and I had read an awful lot of the transcript, was that Mark Hopkinson was inherently an evil, evil man. If he didn't get his way, he killed people.

JUNGE: Mm. So, you thought Spence was right on in his arguments?

GUTHRIE: Yes. I thought the jury did the right thing. I guess I'll put it that way.

JUNGE: Then they executed him, but it was long after that?

GUTHRIE: Oh, it was like twelve or fourteen years, something like that.

JUNGE: So there was a big gap between the time you worked on it.

GUTHRIE: Right, there were all sorts of appeals.

JUNGE: Yeah, and what did you think about Munker? I really wanted to interview him about this whole thing. What did you think about him?

GUTHRIE: He was a good friend. He was an interesting guy (unintelligible) his representation very seriously.

JUNGE: But you disagreed with his point of view?

GUTHRIE: Lawyers don't disagree with points of view. You're hired to do something and you do the best job you can.

JUNGE: Oh, okay

GUTHRIE: (Unintelligible) personally believe that Mark Hopkinson was innocent.

JUNGE: Did you ever read Kirk Knox's little diatribes in the paper?

GUTHRIE: Yes. And then there was something, too, that Marion Huseas wrote.

JUNGE: Yeah, "Legacy of Fear" or something like that. The reason I ask you these questions about Hopkinson is because we may, working for the State, and Sue Castaneda is trying to get a grant from the Wyoming Cultural Trust Fund to do interviews on events like the Cokeville bombing, the Black Fourteen, the Hopkinson.

GUTHRIE: You talk about the Black Fourteen--Jim Barrett was the Attorney General then. I think maybe she should get a grant soon, you should go out and talk to him too, but he's not a very well man.

JUNGE: Where's he at?

GUTHRIE: He lives here.

JUNGE: Were you involved with that Black Fourteen at all?

GUTHRIE: (Unintelligible) at the Attorney General's office. I was just living here.

JUNGE: Okay. What was your opinion at the time?

GUTHRIE: It was pretty silly on both sides.

JUNGE: It didn't need to happen, in other words.

GUTHRIE: It didn't need to happen.

JUNGE: But the Hopkinson thing, just to finish that up, the Hopkinson thing was eventually resolved, but Gerry Spence took a lot of heat as a lawyer because people thought he was a showboat.

